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FAMILIAR
LETTERS.

ON A
VARIETY OF IMPORTANT
AND

INTERESTING SUBJECTS,

From Lady HARIET MORLEY, and OTHERS. k

——— The spacious west,
And all the teeming regions of the south,
Hold not a quarry, to the curious flight
Of knowledge, half so tempting or so fair
As man to man.———

PLEASURES of the IMAGINATION, B. III.

L O N D O N:

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T O T H E
Q U E E N.

M A D A M,

AS the following pages were written with the honest view of promoting the interests of **VIRTUE**, and, a few letters excepted, in the character of a **LADY**, there appeared, to the author, great propriety in inscribing them to the highest **EXAMPLE** of those virtues which he wished to recommend.

A STRONG desire of doing justice to some amiable private characters, with whom he had the pleasure of being acquainted, furnished him with the first idea of this little work; and in the prosecution

DEDICATION.

cution of his plan, he hath been careful to select subjects which he believed of general importance to society. He anxiously wished to illustrate and recommend that decency and decorum of character, so graceful, so indispensibly necessary in the FAIR SEX, without which, beauty is vain, and high rank reproachful.

HE wished to shew, in the clearest and strongest point of view, the fatal consequences of deviating from the paths of VIRTUE; and he hopes, the general complexion of the times notwithstanding, that there is no impropriety in making a LADY of QUALITY, upon all occasions, express a decent regard for RELIGION. He wished to illustrate, the certainty of these important and interesting truths, that happiness is founded in VIRTUE and FRIENDSHIP; dignity of mind, in a reverence for RELIGION, and the LAWS.

SHOULD

DEDICATION.

SHOULD these letters be honoured with the QUEEN's approbation, it would unquestionably promote their usefulness in the world; and were the execution of the work more proportioned to the ardor of the author's zeal, and the importance of his subjects, he might, with a high degree of probability, hope the honour of her MAJESTY's patronage.

IN distinguished stations, great virtues cannot be unobserved, nor can they, in the most dissipated periods, totally fail of their natural effect—it is not my intention to enumerate your MAJESTY's virtues—may they long do honour to the COURT OF GREAT BRITAIN! If the warmest, and most disinterested esteem for them be a crime, I must plead guilty; if by this public declaration of it, I offend against any rule, shall I hope to be forgiven?

THAT

DEDICATION.

THAT your MAJESTY may be long happy in the affection and esteem of the best of PRINCES, and that your ROYAL CHILDREN may be your happy RIVALS in every MORAL and SOCIAL VIRTUE, are the warm wishes of every good man, and of none more than

Your MAJESTY'S

Os. 25.

1773.

most devoted,

most faithful,

and most obedient servant,

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

TO transmit to posterity the out-lines of **CHARACTERS** which have done honour to humanity, hath ever been held a tribute justly due to **VIRTUE** and a very probable mean of promoting its influence in the world. The living example of a good man, like the meridian sun, illuminates all around it; and as the absence of the great luminary is partly made up to us by his light reflected from the moon, so, by a just exhibition of its virtues, the light of a worthy character is reflected beyond the grave. Statesmen, soldiers, and others in high place, who have served their country with honour and fidelity, have an unquestionable right to be gratefully remembered; it is the province of history to do them justice. But as few are qualified to move in high spheres, and still fewer may hope that distinction, the exhibition of public virtues cannot be so interesting to mankind, as a display of the milder domestic virtues of private life.

Good characters are certainly most agreeable to an ingenuous mind, and their example most generally useful; but neither are mixed, or bad ones, occasionally introduced into works of this kind, without their use. The **VENUS** of **MEDICI** would be seen to

great advantage among the works of a common statuary, and virtue never appears more truly amiable than in contrast with vice: thus seen it sheds a glory around, which renders the deformity of its opposite infinitely more conspicuous. Let me not be mistaken as an advocate for the exhibition of loose and indelicate scenes——

“Immodest words admit of no defence,
For want of decency is want of sense.”

THOUGH virtue and vice may be seen in contrast, they should always be exhibited in their proper lights; the one fair and lovely, diffusing fragrance and happiness around her; the other ugly and deformed, art and meanness in her eye, and the broad stare of folly on her face. The man who paints vice in all the alluring attitudes in which it attacks the young and the thoughtless, and with all the glowing fervency of passion and language marks its triumphs, makes but a poor amends to the public by a few cold compliments to virtue at the end of his work.

SOME, perhaps, may think it a little out of character in people of rank to write and talk so much about religion and agriculture, the last being generally understood to be the more immediate concern of the lower classes. To an objection of this kind, the editor would answer, in the first place, that he does not know subjects of greater importance to mankind, whether considered

P R E F A C E

considered as only concerned in the present life, or as candidates for a future; their health, their peace of mind, their subsistence, as well as their after prospects originate in these sources, and are constantly supplied from them. In the second place, though irreligion and inhumanity are, in this age, much and justly complained of, these vices are by no means peculiar to the great; there are still among them, many illustrious examples of every moral, religious, and social virtue; many who do honour to their high station, and in spite of every allurement to vice and dissipation, live as men, as Christians, and good members of society; who treat their dependents with humanity, and exemplify all those virtues for which their noble ancestors were distinguished.— May the number of such daily increase!

At a time when the lives of so many reproach religion, and disturb the peace of society, it cannot be improper to say what may be decently and justly said for it; the subject may be improperly introduced, in which case it must always be disgusting, but when it comes naturally in, it can never be unreasonable, it may often be useful. At a time when the poor are distressed by the high price of provisions, when our manufactures languish, when great numbers, in one corner of the island, are shipping themselves off for the wilds of America to get bread, it cannot be improper to point out the baseness of oppression; to recommend humanity, and to shew the

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the folly and weakness of depopulating the country by severe exactions, or inattention to our police. I think it must be distressing to every humane mind, to see whole families with not a shilling in the world, in rags and bare-footed, travelling over mountains, from distant parts of the country, and at last, with aching hearts, abandoning their native shore; such poor people are pretty much in the circumstances of the lepers in Judea, "If we stay here, we perish; if we go into the camp of the Assyrians, we can but perish."

I AM indeed apt to think that this growing evil is, in many cases, as much owing to the sloth and indolence of the emigrants, as to the severity of landlords, and the high rents put upon their lands. But even in this case, their masters are to blame; it is extremely reproachful for a gentleman not to know, that people are the true, the most solid riches of a country; that his estate can neither be cultivated, nor its natural produce of any value without them; from all which it follows, setting aside every other consideration, that his own interest should induce him, by every humane, every lenient measure, to promote population; to encourage the virtuous and well disposed; to direct and assist the industrious, and to keep a strict eye over the vicious and slothful. But population, the greatest blessing of a country, where the inhabitants are usefully employed, is an insupportable grievance
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ance where they are generally idle; especially in those situations where the climate is precarious, and where the lands produce little without laborious culture, and strict attention to seasons and circumstances.

UPON this subject, it may be laid down as an universal maxim, that where private property is secured by the laws, and liberty of conscience indulged, if many of the inhabitants, especially if those advanced in years, and who have families, abandon their country upon uncertain prospects, there must be something very much amiss in its police. What else could annihilate the *amor patriæ*, so natural to mankind. A man owes much to his country, he was long a charge upon it when he could do nothing for himself; and upon this solid basis the love of our native spot is founded. This debt of honour, great numbers of mankind can only discharge by their industry; the man, therefore, thus circumstanced, who gives himself up to sloth and indolence, injures society, and eats the bread of others. If rather than work in his own country, he wisheth to ship himself off for another where he knows he must work, he should be beaten with many stripes; and those who have property in lands might be pleased to consider, that if the poor must work, they have also a right to eat. Treat them with humanity, teach them the value of industry, give them a few acres of ground upon moderate terms,

commiserate

commiserate their distress in bad seasons, assist them, where assistance may be necessary, and few of them will think of committing all they hold dear to the mercy of the ocean. There are, I admit, among the lower classes, some sluggish and base dispositions, but we have, or ought to have, laws to correct their manners. Why is he a vagrant in the eye of the law, who, without the means of subsistence, strolls about from place to place, and not him also who lives idle at home, while his debts are unpaid, and his family starving? in both cases society is injured, in both transgressors should be punished.

* * * The reader is intreated to pardon and correct two scandalous blunders, omitted in the errata at the end; the one in the 410th page, where, by the inattention of the corrector, hired friends, is printed for hired *hands*; the other in the last page, where the word resemblance, is put for *remembrance*.

FAMILIAR
LETTERS, &c.

Lady HARIET MORLEY to Miss JULIET
ABVILLE.

OUR cousin has at last surrendered!—thank you, my dear JULIE, for the agreeable news; she was always a good girl, and I am persuaded will turn well out. Sir HARY is, in my opinion, a very accomplished gentleman; though he has never crost the narrow seas, nor made the grand tour, he is perfectly well bred, has a large share of common sense, good principles, and, I will venture to add, a good heart.

IF he does not come into a room with the same easy assurance that my lord MODISH does, he makes a much better figure in conversation. Though he may not be quite so learned as his lordship in the mysteries of taylors and friseurs, he knows full as much of the history and present state of Europe. Of all fops, your travelled ones are most my aversion: what is it to me, whether madamoseil VIVAN, or signiora TICKELMINI has the finest person? Am I much edified by being told

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which

which of the two is most applauded on the stage? or does it much concern me whether my lord supped with a princess of the blood, or spent the evening with his hostess?

I AM fond of this country, and very happy in Mr BELLMONT's family: here is no hurry and confusion; no rioting and dissipation; every one lives in his own way, goes where he wills, and eats and drinks what he pleases; every servant knows his place, and every guest is well attended. Every meal is upon the table at a fixed hour, when a bell rings to convene the company, and no body is waited for. I could wish a little of this regularity introduced at ——— where, you know, the victuals are often spoiled before the company are all come in. We go to bed precisely at eleven, rise at six, and are very well disposed for our breakfast by nine. Mr BELLMONT does not keep a chaplain, but very regularly says grace himself, before and after meals. He lifts his right-hand breast high, which is a signal for the company to attend, when in few words, but with great gravity and composure, he adores the GIVER OF ALL GOOD. How many meals have you and I eaten, where this decent custom has been omitted? I think I shall never be able to bear it again.

SINCE I have been here, the family have visited my lady AGLEY; she is an amiable woman, and
very

very justly esteemed in the neighbourhood. But O! the wretch of a husband!—what a compound of vice and meanness!—I think no decent person would, for half a day, keep a footman so rustic and low bred. How it shocks one to find a man of quality unworthy to wear a livery!—Alas! poor lady!—We staid two days, and could, with pleasure, have staid two months with my lady; but to see a man of fortune looking after candles ends, busied about the poultry, swearing at the maids, and calling his wife and daughters by the rudest and most vulgar names, is altogether insupportable. Perish the lust of titles and precedence! what has it to do with happiness?

MR BELLMONT's two little girls are happy in their governess; she is a woman turned thirty, who has had the advantage of a genteel education. Her father had a small estate in the neighbouring county, but being charged with a numerous family, he could not do much for each of them. Both MR BELLMONT and lady BETTY take great notice of the gentlewoman, and indeed she merits it of them; for had she born their children, she could not have been more interested in their happiness, nor at greater pains to form their minds to the love of virtue. They have their hours for working, for reading, and for walking; and one thing is never suffered to interfere with another. I frequently make one at their walks, and have a great opinion

of their governess. Perhaps, upon some future occasion, I may send you a copy of the rules which this sensible and discreet woman hath laid down for the regulation of her own conduct.

How much do those parents misjudge the matter, who, to save a few pounds in wages, put their children under the care of ignorant, low bred people, absolutely unqualified for so great a trust? Farewel, my JULIE—love me, and be happy.

L E T T E R II.

To the same.

“**T**HE ceremony is over, and all matters settled *till death them depart*,”—I rejoice with all my heart. FRANKLEY, you say, was bride’s man—I hate that fellow, he has done the same office for half the women in the parish. Always has a good word for matrimony, but still keeps clear of the yoke. “The SQUIRE was outrageously joyous,”—and I dare say run down half a dozen of hares in the time of dinner—One dog between his legs, and two or three behind his chair—The noisy animal should never come further than the servants hall.

Miss

MISS BRIDGET so lively, so pleased, and so gay!—well! she has the least of an old maid in her composition of any woman past forty I have ever known. Happy herself, she seems to wish every body happy in their own way. The girls are fond of her; the young fellows always reckon upon her good offices. Never woman had less gall in her disposition, or less envy in her temper. It is well you know the original, the picture is so unlike the general run of the species. Cousin BETSY cried to part with her sister—would to heaven all the virgins in Great Britain were as well disposed of: marriage does not alienate a woman from her relations. My uncle was all alive—capered, and danced, and snapt his thumbs—tell him when he has disposed of BETSY, I shall expect his good offices. You don't say a word of the DOCTOR—the good old man would be in high spirits; he loves to see people happy. Methinks I see him performing the office, which no man does with a better grace. Tell him I shall by and by have a hat and gloves at his service.

WE had a crowd of company here the other day; squire AKERLY and his new married lady, with their suite. Mrs AKERLY is a pretty enough sort of body, but does not seem to have seen much company. There is a certain aukward stiffness in her manner, discernible at first sight. The SQUIRE seems to have a very good opinion of himself, which
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he don't endeavour to conceal, and affects a kind of rude familiarity and low humour, which makes him more ridiculous than he otherways would be. He did me the honour to take very particular notice of me, and poured forth compliments in abundance. A sister of his was along with them, a fine girl upon my honour!—About sixteen, pure red and white, rather above the middle size, and straight as a pine!—such a modest sweetness too, such shapes, such charming eyes!—But with all this, bashful to a high degree; she scarce spoke a word, and could not meet one's eye.

ARE not those parents much to blame who keep their children so long out of company that they lose all relish for it, and are in a perfect flutter if they happen to see a strange face? This young lady's mother, was, I am told, one of those notable women, who, if they teach their daughters plain work and preserves, think they have fully discharged the duty of a mother. Such ladies might be pleased to consider, that an easy behaviour in company, is a very genteel accomplishment. We had, besides these, a maiden lady, an aunt of Mr AKERLEY's, in her person and manner, a perfect contrast to the lovely young creature. She seemed to be turned forty, stoops much, has strong masculine features, and a bold piercing eye. She talked eternally, and asked more questions than would fill half a sheet of paper to repeat. This kind

kind of people have neither taste nor feeling, nor can one get rid of their impertinence without being downrightly rude to them.

I HAVE often pitied those who are obliged to see much company: many a disagreeable hour must they reckon upon, to keep up forms. We go to-morrow, on a visit for some days, to one Mr CLAREY's, a gentleman in this neighbourhood, who, with his wife, was two days at Bellmont-Hall since I have been here. I have my things to put up, and therefore, good night, my fair cousin.

L E T T E R III.

To the same.

YOUR letter, my dear JULIE, had lain two days before we returned from Mr CLAREY's. What a charming account do you give of Sir HARY's feat!—Of what a paradise is my cousin become empress!—

I AGREE with you, that a man's taste and good sense appear in nothing more than in building his house, and laying out his policy: perhaps we exceed our ancestors in nothing so much as in these particulars. Shelter, and a kind of rude grandeur, were all they studied in their buildings; and in laying
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ing out their grounds they seem to have had no particular plan in view. Here a small patch inclosed—hard by fields in the state of nature—their mansion house frequently built in a bog or morass, with all the dirty offices just under the windows; the dunghill hard by, and scarce a bit of pavement to be seen. But above all, they were deficient in their taste for public roads; one would be almost tempted to think that the whole family had locked themselves up in their castles for nine months in the year; the men to clear their rusty arms, the women to repair the arrafs, and mend the broken linen; all huddled together in the great hall, till they retired to their pidgeon holes for rest.

WELL! every age has its own taste, as well as its particular virtues and vices—If our ancestors were less polite, they certainly exceeded us in old English hospitality and sincerity. If their revenues were smaller, their desires were more moderate. If trade and commerce were less understood, luxury and dissipation were unknown. 'Twixt you and I, my JULIE, the ladies have suffered no less than the men by modern refinements; while they wore plain things, and were chiefly taken up with the concerns of the family, they had fewer incitements to pride and vanity; a good girl, not a fine one, seems then to have been the word. A sound constitution, a modest demeanor, skill in domestic affairs, and strict application to the needle, or some other useful employment,

ployment, appear to have been first rate qualities; and in spite of prejudice, must we not allow that these are still valuable endowments?

LET a woman sing like an angel; let her touch the guitar or harpsichord with the nicest finger; let her be drest in all the pride of the Indies; let her move with the utmost dignity and grace; let all eyes be open, all ears attentive, every tongue loud in her praise—What is she without these antiquated virtues?—What, my JULIE, but the outside appearance of excellence, unqualified in a high degree for discharging the relative duties of life. If our tempers and minds are not disciplined in our early years, and good and decent habits induced, before bad ones have acquired strength, wretched is the figure we shall make upon the stage of life!

WE are at no time of life fond of restraint, and in youth the least of any; young people are not at leisure to think of consequences—How often have you and I envied Miss WILLET?—Happy in the fondest mother—blest with the most indulgent father—money in her pocket, servants at her command—it was but to ask and to have what she would; nothing was too good for the dear girl. Sewing, or reading, spoiled her eyes—confinement hurt her health—restraint broke her spirit; her person was the care of others.—Why should one take the trouble to put off and on her own clothes, who could

so well afford to keep a servant?—Well! we know how she turned out—let us thank God that our parents had common sense. Farewel, my JULIE—be virtuous, and be happy.

C A R D.

SIR HARY UPTON'S respectful compliments to lady HARIET MORLEY. By her ladyship's good offices, and the condescension of her cousin, he is now the happiest man upon earth.—He can never forget what he owes to good lady HARIET. When may he hope the honour of a visit at Upton Place?—He begs it may be within the month, that her ladyship may have the pleasure of seeing her friends at their best—sir HARY has somewhere read, that the first quarrel between a married couple greatly injures those lineaments of the face where the Loves and Graces chiefly delight to dwell.

C A R D.

LADY HARIET MORLEY had the pleasure of sir HARY'S most obliging card, and takes a very particular share in his present happiness—may it be pure and lasting!—If at any time she interested herself in sir HARY'S favour, 'twas but a just tribute to his own merit, and what she owed to her cousin's happiness. Lady HARIET hopes the honour of seeing them within the month, but if she should not
be

be able; she knows a receipt, which properly applied, prevents the bad effects of a quarrel—It is a composition of good sense and good nature, with a few grains of prudence; the sooner applied, the effect is the more certain.

LETTER IV.

EDWARD HARTLEY Esq; to Lady HARIET MORLEY.

SO you have resolved never to write to me again—Well! I pronounce your ladyship a most undutiful niece!—I wish you had told me why you gave me up, that we might have quarrelled with some kind of method. Perhaps I have been a little tardy in answering your letters, but still, my good lady HARIET, you should have wrote to me on PEGGY's marriage—indeed you should, as you know I am fond of your ladyship's fine sentiments, pretty turned compliments, and so forth.

I DARE say JULIE has wrote to you most minutely, so that little remains for me to add. Did she tell you how the great article of pin-money was settled? You know I have long exclaimed against that dangerous appointment, and therefore could not, with any consistency of character, suffer an example of it in my own family. When the AT-

TORNEY made out a scroll of the marriage settlement, that article was left blank for sir HARRY to fill up—He desired me to name the sum. I told him my daughter desired no more than her mother had, which was only her confidence in my honour, to furnish her with money upon all occasions—sir HARRY bowed—but insisted, that, in regard of the general practice, a particular sum should be named. I vehemently opposed it, your aunt and PEGGY were of my opinion, and thus the matter was dropt.

I KNOW not whether my conduct in this affair will recommend me to the ladies in general, but I reckon upon your ladyship's approbation. You know, my dear lady HARRIET, that in all governments there must be a dernier resort, in all societies a directive power, or things would run into anarchy and confusion. The men must either depend upon you, or you must depend upon them; and of the two, I think the last the most natural; pin-money gives a woman a kind of independence, and that independence has often produced the most dismal consequences. Indeed, when a woman knows that she is to marry a brute, who has no sense of honour or decency, such precaution may be necessary; or, when a man marries a woman, of whose prudence and oeconomy he has no opinion, it may be proper to limit the sum she shall annually expend upon her person; but what has either of these cases to do, where sensible sober minded people

people come together? Your aunt will write to you by next post, and if you have not really quarrelled with me, I shall hope the favour of a letter soon. Farewell!

L E T T E R V.

To EDWARD HARTLEY Esq.

MY approbation!—how can you expect it?—

The distinguishing, the most valued privilege of people of rank struck at, and I approve of it!—Indeed, my good uncle, you have furnished an excellent opportunity for a quarrel. You could have no reason to suspect my cousin's prudence and good sense in the application of whatever sum sir HARRY should have been pleased to allow her for pin-money; why then lay her under the necessity of applying to him for every shilling she may have occasion to lay out? a necessity which to me would be very disagreeable. I have a very good opinion of sir HARRY, but are there not husbands of sordid dispositions? and is it not prudent in all cases to provide against the worst that may happen.

No question pin-money has, in some cases, been misapplied; but, my good sir, you would not restrain the whole sex because some women abuse their

their

their liberty. After all, I won't pretend absolutely to condemn your conduct; you have much better judgment, and more experience of the world than I have; but as I am not satisfied in the point, and would, upon all occasions, be happy to find my sentiments coincide with yours, I must insist upon a long letter on the subject. My mind is open to conviction; if you convert me, I shall warmly espouse your opinion. The bell rings for dinner.—Farewel.

LETTER VI.

Mr HARTLEY to Lady HARIET.

TRUST me, my dear lady HARIET, there are many avenues to a man's heart, without the aid of attornies and parchments—never think so meanly of your own influence as to believe these in all cases necessary. You would not chuse to apply to a husband for every shilling you might have occasion to lay out—I hope, my dear, you are in no danger of giving your hand to a man, who would lay you under that disagreeable necessity. If you trust a gentleman with your person, much more may you trust to his honour for your clothes and pocket-money. I admit that there are men of base tempers, but must still think that there is more

more good sense shown in avoiding a connexion with them, than in tying them down to rules.

You are a reasoner, my lady HARIET, let us enter a little more into the subject. Did you never observe a child take up a knife, and cry when it was taken from him?—"The poor child must not cry"—the knife was again put into his hand, and presently he cut his finger. What! you will say, are women to be compared to children?—you may think it severe, but pardon me if I say, that I would as soon trust a child with a sharp knife, as I would the general run of your sex with independence. Put the case, madam, that nine in ten of you might be safely trusted with pin-money, but that it would expose the tenth to great danger—are not the slips and miscarriages of married women reproachful to the sex? and what good and virtuous woman would not sacrifice an useless, not to say a dangerous privilege, to the honour of her sex, and the peace of families? a privilege which her mother and grandmother lived happy without.

WHAT an account did lady FANNY AXLEY make of her pin-money?—married before she was sixteen, and till then, never mistress of ten guineas at a time—the day after marriage a hundred pounds were poured into her lap—The girl wisely concluded that so large a sum must last a long time

time—she knew that next quarter day she had an equal one to receive—she was distressed how to lay out the money. She had an itch for gaming—she indulged it—and by the end of the month had not a shilling left. Mr AXLEY loved money, but, in a tender moment, she prevailed upon him to let her have another quarter's payment per advance—she had a run of bad luck—she played with no judgment, and that sum also was lost. Well! 'twas but a trifle!—lady FORWARD had, in half the time, lost double the sum. Again lady FANNY applied to her husband—he demurred—he was cruel and ungrateful—she was thoughtless and extravagant—peace fled from their dwelling.

My lady kept her room—was indisposed—would see no body. For some days Mr AXLEY was sulky—at last he relented, and, as the price of his peace, paid her down another half year's pin-money; but with this short remark, that he was neither the richest man in England, nor had the privilege of coining money. Again lady FANNY took her seat at the card table, and, as she had more experience, resolved to play deeper,—it seemed the only way to fetch up her losses. Lady BASSET had in one night carried off fifty pounds of her money—that lady was once more challenged to try her fortune in the field—the challenge was joyfully accepted.—My lady BASSET was old and covetous, had great command of temper, and was perfectly

perfectly skilled in all the tricks of the game. She had observed the happy effect which a little success had upon lady FANNY's spirits, and therefore determined to give her line. In one night my lady BASSET lost forty pounds—there was no standing before lady FANNY's good luck.

THE whole neighbourhood rung of lady FANNY's victory—so young, and to play with such judgment was astonishing!—to beat lady BASSET, was a victory indeed! In the gaiety of her heart lady FANNY had promised, in a few days, to repay the last two hundred pounds by her husband advanced—she already reckoned upon a hundred more of lady BASSET's money. But, O cruel stars! the next night they plaid, that veteran carried off eighty pounds—"much indeed against her inclination—but the cards will sometimes take the strangest turns—lady FANNY had not played a single card wrong."—I weary your ladyship—suffice it to say, that in three months, from the day of her marriage, the unfortunate lady FANNY had not a shilling left of her first year's pin-money. What was to be done?—to renounce gaming was impossible—to apply to her husband would be in vain. A gentleman who visited in the family saw her distress—he had the goodness to pity it—he lent her a hundred pounds. "If people of fortune may not, for their amusement, lose a trifle at cards, it were a hard case indeed"—generous man!—I repeat

not the consequences—who hath not heard of them?—

THIS, my dear niece, and several other instances of the bad effects of pin-money, which have fallen within my own observation, could not fail of prejudicing me against the polite custom; and I am persuaded, when you consider the matter thoroughly, you will be of my opinion. Do you think I ever wrote so long a letter?—Farewel.

L E T T E R VII.

To the same.

YOU are still unconvinced, and again I resume my pen; chiefly with the intention of telling you a little story, with which this letter shall conclude. All women, you say, are not addicted to gaming; true, but neither is gaming the only danger to which a woman is exposed, who has more money in her pocket than she knows how to lay out. Both money and time may be thrown away, where cards are proscribed.

MRS WALLOP cannot bear the sight of cards, she hates them as she does a conventicle, and thinks they have ruined half the women in England. But Mrs WALLOP is eternally gadding after auctions
and

and sales of china; no money is too much for a jar or trinket of an uncommon make. "'Tis a noble amusement to contemplate the beauty of the colours, and the vast variety of figures upon this elegant manufacture." A large room in the house is set apart for the reception of these precious toys, and it is the good lady's first work, and her last, to visit, to dust, and to arrange them; this she prefers to the mean cares of her family. Before a month's end she generally loses conceit of a piece, when it is either given away, or changed with the china-man, at fifty per cent discount.

How innocent is all this!—has not the lady a right to dispose of her pin-money?—Well! but a little discretion could not hurt even a woman of taste—does she show much of this by borrowing money of every body that will lend her, rather than be disappointed of good bargains? will her taste in ornamental china atone for the neglect of her family affairs? has she reason to take it amiss, that her husband frequently refuses to pay her bills? or can she justly find fault with her good friends the auctioneers, when they exclude her from their sales, where they know she would often be the highest bidder, though she has not money to pay?—can a woman of honour think of these follies and indignities, and not tremble!——But to my story.

SOME years ago, a gentleman of fortune, in the west of England, made his addressee to a lady of great virtue and merit, who listened to his proposals. It would appear that he had never heard of pin-money, the lady's relations, however, had; and when settlements were talked of, that article was brought upon the carpet. The gentleman was desired to name the sum—"It is impossible," said he, "I never bought a pin in my life; I know not their price, much less can I tell the quantity a lady may want in a twelvemonth." He was told that the term was not to be literally understood, but was put for spending money in general. "Spending money!" said he,—"I never restricted my house-keeper to a certain sum; shall I then restrict my wife." The company smiled.—A gentleman present, nearly connected with the lady, gravely observed, that the best way to settle the matter, would be to insert a prudential clause in the contract of marriage. "I believe," said he, "something occurs to me that might do, if you will help me to paper pen and ink"—he wrote—

"AND if at any time, during the subsistence of this marriage, the said A. B. shall so far forget what he owes to his own character, as to abridge the said miss SALLY, his promised spouse, in the necessary sums of money for the equipment of her person, and other decent purposes, then, and in that case, it is hereby provided, that she may freely, and
without

without reproach, be obliged to any unmarried gentleman of more consideration. And on the other part, if the said miss SALLY shall make it apparent to the world, that she is incapable of conducting her own matters, and therefore not to be trusted with money, then, and in that case, it is also provided, that the said A. B. shall be at liberty to retain in his family, a maiden lady, not under forty years of age, to whom all monies, necessary for his said promised spouse, shall be paid, and by whom the same shall be laid out; any thing in the law or custom of England to the contrary notwithstanding." When this clause was read, it threw the matter into such a ludicrous light, that not a word more was said upon the subject.—I kiss your hand, my dear lady HARIET—difference in opinion shall make none in affection.

L E T T E R VIII.

Lady HARIET MORLEY to Miss ABVILLE.

FRANKLY to be married!—so am I to be empress of China—I wont believe it, till I see him "with his body worship," and hear him "with his worldly goods endow." These fellows who are fond of every pretty woman, never care a rush for any particular one. Let miss SPRIGHTLY be a week out of his sight, and I promise you, he will think

think no more of her than he does of his grandmother. I have known him twenty times in love within the year,—a goddess, an angel, or even the finest woman in the world, is not his stile; “the prettiest girl *he had seen*,” is the utmost he ever says of any body. If he should, however, play the fool, it is not without mature deliberation, for he has talked of marrying for twelve years past. Tell him, if the report proves true, I shall certainly expect gloves and ribbons.

I NEVER spent a week more agreeably than at Mr CLAREY’S; ’tis a most obliging family. His fortune don’t exceed twelve hundred a year, and yet no gentleman in the county keeps a more elegant and plentiful table, or entertains his friends with a greater variety of the best wines; though to look at his improvements, one would think that his whole yearly income was unequal to them. Indeed he could not live in the manner he does, and lay out so much money in improvements, were it not that he has a large farm in his own management, well stocked with all kinds of cattle and poultry, and from which he raises a superabundance of all sorts of grain for his family and horses. How, in the name of all that is strange and ridiculous, are great fortunes laid out, when so much good may be done, and such a respectable figure made, upon a very moderate one?

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MR CLAREY, being a younger brother, had been bred to business, and but succeeded to the estate on the death of his elder, about twelve years ago. His brother, having been of a delicate constitution, and an easy temper, had suffered his affairs to become a little embarrassed. The first thing therefore that Mr CLARY did, after the succession opened to him, was to sell two large farms, the most contiguous on the estate. By the price of these, and what he could spare of his own private fortune, he was enabled to clear of all incumbrances, and had a stock of ready money left for carrying on his improvements. These, were I able to describe them, would surprize you, considering how short time he has enjoyed the estate: very extensive fields, which bore next to nothing, have been brought into the highest culture, and produce excellent crops; divided, and subdivided, by thriving hedges and well kept ditches, they make a charming appearance. The sides of several adjacent mountains have been covered with firs; and in his lower grounds, a vast variety of other kinds of timber have been planted out. The roads have been every where mended, or new made; bogs and morasses drained; and a set of the finest and most commodious offices built. The mansion-house, which is built in a very good taste, his father had finished just before his death.

Be not alarmed, my dear, I have not been bit by a mad farmer—tho' I own I am in some danger of becoming

becoming a perfect rustic. As Mr CLAREY is an early riser, he and I had many a pleasant walk before breakfast. I quickly became interested in all the operations of the field, and think in a month's time I should have been qualified for making an excellent farmer's wife. In one word, I am become so fond of farming, that, since I came home, I have with great pleasure read DRYDEN's translation of the Georgics. I know my uncle has the book—will you read, if not the whole, at least the conclusion of the second Georgic, beginning at the following paragraph—

O happy, if he knew his happy state!
 The swain, who, free from business and debate,
 Receives his easy food from nature's hand,
 And just returns of cultivated lands!
 No palace, &c.—

Farewel, my JULIE—live, and be happy.

L E T T E R IX.

To the same.

I AM happy, my dear JULIE, to know that my last was agreeable to you, and perfectly charmed with your observation, that no subject can be indifferent, in which so great a number of mankind
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are concerned. You apprehend bad consequences from my visit at Mr CLAREY'S—"I don't mention one in the family but himself—I had so many private walks with him—am so fond of his improvements, and so forth"—all true; and yet my heart is still my own; I can do justice to a man's good qualities, without the remotest danger of running away with him. Indeed I believe I should not easily persuade him to accompany me on such a jaunt; as never man seemed happier in a wife, or more sensible of his happiness.

LADY SUSAN had a genteel fortune, but is herself a treasure above all value—sensible, affable, and of so sweet a temper—I won't say a word more—were I to enter minutely into her character, I should never have done. Mr CLAREY is remarkably fond of her, but you must discover it by his eyes and manner; no fulsome compliments pass between them; no indecent freedoms, no rude familiarities shock their guests. They have been about ten years married, and have five fine children; three boys, and two girls. One is charmed with my lady's maternal tenderness, and her attention to the children; she is generally half a dozen times a day in the nursery, and sees every thing with her own eyes, yet one cannot observe the least appearance of anxiety or over fondness: no terrors, no running out of company, if any of them cries; no partiality, except it be to the youngest; none of them

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are suffered to come into the room till called for ; they must go immediately when desired. If they ask any thing which they ought not, or in an ungenteel manner, they are sure not to have it.

I HAVE rarely seen such a set of decent looking, orderly women servants ; my lady makes it a rule, to receive none into her family, who cannot bring the most unexceptionable vouchers of their character and qualifications. Every one has her distinct province pointed out, to which she must attend with diligence and exactness ; a second transgression is always punished by a dismissal from the service. Were you to be there a twelvemonth, you would not hear a high word in the family. All seem to have the highest respect for their master and mistress, and all are at peace among themselves ; indeed quarrelling is known to be an unpardonable offence. It is observed, that more women are married out of Mr CLAREY's family, than from all the gentlemens families in the parish ; of such importance to a servant's character is the prudence and conduct of her mistress.

“ MISS TOOLY did me the honour to enquire after me”—make her a low curtsy in my name, and tell her I am much her humble servant. The good DOCTOR thinks of me often—if I am in any danger of setting an overvalue on myself, I think it must be from my knowlege of his kind regards—
tell

him, I am still no better than I should be; that I am not worse, is much the consequence of his instructions and good example. I will do myself the honour to answer lady MARY's letter by next post, but the debt of gratitude I owe her ladyship, must for ever remain a charge against me. Farewel, my JULIE—love me, and be happy.

L E T T E R X.

To the same.

EDWARD FRANKLY esq; really and truly to be married—joy to the happy bride!—alas, poor women! many a fond heart must bleed—blessed is she that expecteth not, for she shall not be disappointed. Thirty years younger than himself—that's but a trifle; I have known eighty and sixteen very lovingly come together. Well! let us do justice to these young heroines, self-denial certainly is a virtue. A promise of marriage is actionable, and I know not but I could stop the bans—many and many a time has he dandled me in his arms, bid me be a good child, and he would make me his little wife—I hate law suits, and there lies his safety.

DID I not say something, in a former letter, of the young ladies governess?—did I not promise you some account of her rules of conduct?—I half re-

collect that I did, and now transcribe for you a paper which she dropt from her prayer-book one Sunday in church. The pew-keeper, believing it to be mine, put it into my hands next day. I returned it to her, when she blushed so much, that I durst not tell her that I had taken a copy. On the top of the paper was wrote, *general rules for my own conduct*; then the following articles.

1. To consider that my hands and my character are my only fortune.

2. To remember, that though a servant, I am not considered as on a footing with others in the family.

3. To be obliging to every body, and never to interfere in the concerns of the other servants.

4. To take care of my health, that I may be able to discharge my duty, and enjoy life without being troublesome to others.

5. To take care of my clothes, and always to appear decent and clean.

6. To make few acquaintances out of the family.

LASTLY, and above all, to remember what my mother said to me, when at parting with her, she gave me a gilt bible and prayer-book.

Rules regarding my duty to the young ladies.

1. To be careful that their persons and clothes be kept sweet and clean.

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2. CAREFULLY to mark their propensities and dispositions, that I may know how to apply the proper advice and instructions.

3. To lead them, by every mean in my power, to a love of truth and sincerity, and to impress their young minds with a strong sense of the meanness and turpitude of telling a lie.

4. To check every appearance of a pettish or froward temper, as the bane of social happiness.

5. To be at due pains to instil into their minds a just sense of morality and religion, a charitable opinion of others, and a modest estimation of their own persons, qualities, and connexions.

6. To lead them easily and gradually into a habit of being constantly employed in working hours.

7. To study to attain the command of my own temper, and to reprove with mildness or sharpness, in just proportion to the offence.

8. To point out to them distinctly and frequently, the difference between pride and dignity. To represent the first as meanness and want of sense; the last as the necessary knowledge which people of birth and fortune ought to have of what they owe to their character and situation in life. N. B. This may be illustrated by a thousand examples."

DON'T you think, my JULIE, that there is a great deal of good sense in these plain rules, and are not my little cousins in very good hands? Shall I tell you a pretty story of the eldest?—the other day,

day, after breakfast, she came running into the parlour quite out of breath—"O mamma!" said she,—"there is a poor woman at the gate, with three children almost naked!—shall I give them some of my clothes?"—A smile of approbation presently overspread my lady's face, but she checked it—"Your clothes, my love!—you must not give away your clothes." "Those I have left off wearing, madam."—"No; not those;—they are too good for beggar children."—"I did not know, madam,—but the poor children seemed cold, very cold, they have no shoes nor stockings."—"Well! their parents must be idle careless people—what have we to do with them?"—"I do not know, madam, but when we meet a poor man or woman, Mrs HALLET tells us they are objects of compassion, and we must not despise them; she says God would be angry with us if we did."

LADY BETTY could hold it out no longer, having wipt off a few tears of joy—"You are right, my dearest child," said she, "you are right—I but tried the goodness of your heart. I will supply the poor children with clothes, and reward your tenderness—Mrs HALLET is a good woman, and tells you the truth—God cares for the poor, as well as for the rich, and those who have any thing to spare, are obliged to supply their wants."

O MY JULIE! what a blessing is such a woman to her husband, to her family, and to the neighbourhood in which she lives?—my heart is too much affected to add a word more. Farewel!—be humane, and be happy.

L E T T E R XI.

JAMES CLAREY Esq; to Sir HARY UPTON.

YOU very justly observe, that a man bred to business, must find himself greatly at a loss when he enters upon the management of an estate. This was very much my case. When I began my operations, I had a thousand difficulties to struggle with. My brother's state of health did not permit him to attend so much to the improvement of his small fortune, as perhaps he otherways might have done, and his servants were a set of lazy idle fellows, who let every thing go to wreck; it was my first care to turn off every man of them.

HIS steward, by squeezing the tenants, had taken care of himself; I dismissed him, and for some years took that office upon myself. I found that it had been his practice, to hold the tenants upon short leases, that he might be the oftener gratified at the renewal of them. There was a large bill of arrears, and most of the tenants were in bad circumstances.

stances. Upon inquiry, I found that many of them had paid very well for the indulgence they had got in the payment of their rents ; an indulgence which is generally hurtful to them, even when no gratuity is exacted.

I CANNOT, without pain, think of the situation I found my poor people in, and heartily commiserate those tenants where the master trusts all to his steward. There may be honest men in that character, but the gross of them are not much to be depended upon. I knew little of the value of lands, and was totally unskilled in the nature of soils. Of the proper manner of conducting improvements, I was ignorant as a child. I saw, however, that I must of necessity acquire a little knowlege in these matters ; and with this view I determined to have my estate surveyed and measured, by one properly skilled in the nature of soils, and the value of lands. I employed such a one, and instructed him to set a separate value upon every farm and field. When I came to look at the value put upon my lands, I was amazed that all the tenants had not got rich—lands which did not yield me five shillings the acre, were valued at fifteen ; and others, upon which scarce any value at all had ever been put, from five to ten shillings. I thought myself extremely obliged to the gentleman, and very handsomely gratified him for his trouble.

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QUITE elated with the hopes of tripling my rent-roll, I further employed this obliging man to inclose and let my farms; a plan and estimate of the expence were accordingly given me, by which I observed that a large sum was presently to be expended. But before I proceeded to inclose, I thought proper to call my tenants together, to know if they would take their lands at the rent set upon them, and agree to pay the common interest for the money to be laid out in inclosing—not a man of them would agree to either—they were dismissed. My director assured me that this was the result of a combination amongst them—that the lands were richly worth the rent set upon them, and that the tenants would soon agree to the terms proposed. I therefore ordered him to proceed to the inclosing and subdividing of my farms—the whole was finished, in a few months, at a vast expence, but with so little judgment, that in a few years a great part of it was to do over again.

I IMAGINE, sir, you will repent the curiosity which induced you to desire an account of my improvements, as three quires of paper would not contain the obstructions which I had to surmount—At present I shall but add, that I always am, &c.

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L E T T E R XII.

To the same.

MY people were once more called together, and urged to take their farms; I could not think of turning them all off at once. I told them I had no intention of distressing them—that for my own part, I had but little knowlege of the value of lands, and that the rent put upon their farms was fixed by an indifferent person, skilled in such matters, who could have no interest in over-rating them. Here an old man smiled—“No interest, says your honour?—do you think that screwing up your rent-roll is not a bait thrown out for other gentlemen to bite at?—I believe your honour has not a tenant who would have scrupled a moderate augmentation of his rent; but it is a thing without example, to double and triple rents all at once, without any improvement having been made.

SOME of us, by the blessing of GOD upon our industry, have got a little money—your honour would not think it reasonable to lay a tax upon industry—you would not think it reasonable that we should hazard the pittance we have saved, by going upon new projects, and promising a rent which we can never hope to pay. Many of us are grown gray-

gray-headed in the service of your honour's family—many a severe winter, many a backward spring, many a bad harvest have we struggled with ; many a loss have we sustained—all these we patiently bore ; we lived under a family distinguished for humanity and benevolence. When I tell your honour that your lands have been valued with no judgment, you may think me too much interested to speak the truth ; but trust not to me, let your own eyes convince you. What has your neighbour squire MORNEY got by such management ?—he had his estate valued and inclosed, the rent was doubled—most of the tenants were dismissed. His lands were taken, at his own price, by men of no experience, who had little to lose,—most of them he was obliged to assist at their outset. The consequence was just what the neighbourhood expected—in a few years, not one of the new tenants could pay his rent—the SQUIRE laid hold of their corns and cattle ; they were sold by auction, the arrears and rent not half paid ; and many poor families turned out of doors, with scarce decent clothes upon their backs. God forbid your honour should copy after such an example.”

I FELT the force and propriety of what the old man said—my heart was about to revolt, when my operator struck in. “Sir,” said he, “these ignorant country people obstinately oppose their own interest ; they know nothing of agriculture, and

they will not be taught. I can easily demonstrate that a reasonable profit may be annually made of your lands, over and above the expence of rent and management; and were you to let them lower, I humbly think, besides hurting your interest, you would be chargeable to your own mind, with encouraging sloth and indolence. Low rents are commonly ill paid; when a man pays a reasonable rent for his farm, he knows he must be industrious to raise it. If your tenants, to a man, should give up their farms, I will find you good people to take them at the moderate rent set upon them."

"MODERATE rent!" said the old man, "did you ever blush sir?—why would you mislead the gentleman? have I lived upon these lands fifty years, and do I not know what can be made out of them?"—Here I interferred to prevent a quarrel—the tenants were once more dismissed; and as I depended upon my operator's skill and integrity, I ordered him to look out for others to take the lands. Soon thereafter the farms were all let; some to such of the former tenants as had little to lose; but most of them to strangers, whom, at my operator's desire, I assisted to stock their farms; they promised a great deal, and I too readily believed them. I am sorry to tell you sir, that in a few years, every thing went to wreck; the new tenants had no experience of the soil; they were tied down to rules of management to which they were unaccustomed;

gomed ; things misgave, this broke their spirits, and one half of their rent was rarely paid when due.

To lay hold of a poor man's corns and cattle, and to turn his family out of doors, was, to me, a most grating affair, and yet, what could I do ? my living depended upon the rents of my estate.—My character suffered—my heart bled—I resolved upon new measures. I applied to a gentleman in the neighbourhood, who has since been of great use to me ; he is a sensible worthy man, and quite independant—I desired him to speak his mind freely—“ I knew,” said he, “ that your lands would not do at the rents put upon them ; those men who make a trade of valuing other people's lands, are generally mere theorists ; if they see a few acres on a farm bear good crops, they rashly and ridiculously conclude that the whole farm may be soon and easily brought to the same degree of fertility. They have but one thing in view, that is, to make themselves of consequence, and this they can only do by increasing the rent-roll of their employers. I imagine you have been put to great expence, to very little purpose ; what is done cannot be undone ; but in my opinion, the wisest thing you can do, is to let your lands upon such reasonable terms, as your tenants may be able to live and pay their rents. Their labour is incessant, the risques they run very great, and their returns precarious. The value of an estate, either to keep, or to sell, depends very much

much upon the circumstances of the tenants upon it."

I TOOK my friend's advice,—discharged a large arrear—and gave my people new leases upon moderate terms; and have the pleasure to know that they are now happy, and every man able to pay his rent at the day. By this step, and some others taken to secure their peace, I am become very popular. Perhaps I am too minute—I hope another letter will contain all I have to say on the subject; I am &c.

L E T T E R XIII.

To the same.

YOU are too severe upon these theoretical gentlemen—I would only condemn them to farm a whole estate at the rent they set upon it; this, I imagine, would soon bring them to their right mind. You was much pleased with the old tenant's speech—so was I—many of this class of people have good natural parts, and, upon some occasions, say the shrewdest things.

HAVING thus let my lands, my next care was to introduce a spirit of industry among my tenants. With this view I proposed a few annual premiums, for the best crops of the several kinds of grain in
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use among them; and as the culture of roots was then but little known in this neighbourhood, besides some small premiums for the weightiest crop, I gave notice, that any person intending to plant cabbages or coleworts in the field, might have the plants *gratis* from my garden, and also be instructed by the gardener, in the proper manner of preparing the ground, and managing the crop. The effect which so small a sum as fifty pounds, for some years thus applied, had, is almost incredible; it raised such an emulation among the country people, that not an hour of their time was lost. Those who gained not a premium one year, I urged to contend for it the next; and generally gave those who came nearest to it, some little present, as a reward for their attempt to excel. In determining the premiums I was at great pains to convince the competitors that I was impartial, and this, I found, had a very good effect.

I KNEW that a great part of a farmer's thrift depended upon the industry and oeconomy of the women in his family, and therefore promised small premiums, for the best and greatest quantity of butter and cheese made from an equal number of cows—for the most money made of any kind of manufacture, by an equal number of women—and for the two best, and the two next best calves, reared by any of my tenants. To the farmer's wife or daughter, who gained the highest premium, lady SUSAN gave

gave annually a cape and cloke, which I imagine, had more effect than all the pecuniary rewards. Give me leave to mention another premium which my wife proposed, and which had a very happy effect. It was, to give a plain stuff gown to every servant maid who should keep her place three years with a good character. The girls were perpetually going from place to place, neither to be satisfied with their wages nor their entertainment; but the prospect of gaining so poor a prize makes every thing now agreeable. Several gowns have been claimed, and I will venture to say, that a laurel crown at the Olympic games was scarcely more valued.

BUT if I thus easily raised one spirit, it was not without great difficulty that I laid another. My tenants had for some time been remarkable for a wrangling and litigious temper; constantly at law with one another, about the meekest trifles. I observed this with great concern: they mispent their time, they threw away their money, they were embittered against one another. I found, upon inquiry, that this vile habit had been introduced among them, by the malevolent influence of a fellow in the parish who kept an ale-house, and had the luck to prevail in several law suits. He piqued himself upon his knowledge of the law, and was distinguished by the title of the counsellor. He did
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not live upon my grounds, but I resolved to have an eye to him.

Two of my people had, for a twelvemonth, been at law together, about a matter not worth five shillings to either of them. I sent for both, told them I had heard of their difference, and that it was extremely disagreeable to me to have such misunderstandings subsisting among those who in any way depended upon me. I represented the disadvantages that naturally flowed from a temper of mind so contrary to religion, so hurtful to society, and so destructive of their own peace—I strongly urged an accommodation of their matters. The men were so much soured against one another, and each so well assured of the rectitude of his own plea, that what I said seemed to have very little effect. I was a good deal vexed, but could not help myself. I resolved, however, to try every method to eject this demon of discord; and with that view called together every man who depended upon me. I pointed out to them, in the best manner I could, the malignity of this diabolical temper, which makes men a trouble to themselves, and a plague to all around them. I told them no gentleman wished his tenants better than I did,—that they could to no other motive impute the trouble I had taken in calling them together, and that I would, from that day forth, be the avowed enemy of every litigious person. That no man of that character should e-

ver receive the smallest favour or indulgence from me, nor should they, or any relation of theirs, upon any consideration whatever, renew a lease upon my lands, or be employed in my service.

I OBSERVED to them, that though differences might unavoidably arise, there were always in the neighbourhood sensible discreet men, able to take them away in an amicable manner; and in the event of a difference in opinion among these, I offered, upon every occasion, to be umpire, and see the parties get justice. Finally, I observed to them, that if all this notwithstanding, any dependent of mine should hereafter presume to go to law with his neighbour, upon a frivolous occasion, or upon any that countrymen could determine, till it had been first submitted, I would, at my own expence, support the cause of him who should be peaceably inclined. This last threat had a visible good effect, for the common people have a high opinion of a gentleman's influence. It would weary you beyond patience to repeat all the difficulties I met with in this matter—suffice it to say, that by keeping a steady eye over them, I in end prevailed; for several years past not a tenant of mine has gone to law with any man. The people are now thoroughly convinced that I meant them well, and set a due value on their own peace.

THE wretch who misled them, had a great inclination to wrong the revenue of excise—I had the honour to meet with him frequently at the justice courts, where he got so little indulgence, that he soon thought proper to move to another corner of the country. Thus, my dear sir, I have given you the information you desired; if any thing in it can be useful to you, I shall be extremely happy. Till I have the honour of seeing you, I am, &c.

L E T T E R XIV.

SIR HARY UPTON to JAMES CLAREY Esq;

YOU have now, my dear sir, concluded the account you have been pleased to give me of the difficulties you had to struggle with, when you entered upon the possession of your estate, and the humane and prudent methods you took to make your dependants happy. I will endeavour to profit by your good example; if I do not, I shall be exceedingly to blame. It is the great misfortune of the laborious part of our species, that people in superior stations so seldom think of their situation, and know so little of the straits and difficulties they have to grapple with. Were gentlemen to consider that their ease and affluence are entirely owing to the incessant labours of these poor people; were they to reflect upon the hard fare, the inclement

seasons, and the wretched accommodation that numbers of them must put up with, I am persuaded they would treat them with more humanity.

It was the maxim of a late noble lord, and a maxim worthy of the antient family he had the honour to represent, "That as farmers work hard, they should live well." There can be little gratitude to the GIVER OF ALL GOOD in that mind which can treat the humble instruments of his bounty with unfeeling severity. Were a lady to see the mother of a family suckling an infant, with two or three, perhaps half a dozen around her, unable to help themselves, and to know that the woman was also charged with the whole other domestic concerns of the family, would she not feel for her? would it not imbitter the relish of her enjoyments, to consider that all this drudgery and fatigue was necessary on the part of the poor woman, that her ladyship's maids might have their tea twice a day? would it not pierce her very soul to see this poor woman, with a frugal hand, dealing out a little coarse bread and skim milk to her children, that a kennel of dogs may be fed, and profligate liverymen wallow in abundance? The fact is, luxury is come to such a height, that from the minister of state downward, all ranks seem disposed to squeeze and oppress one another. For my own share, while I can live decently upon my income, no man that depends upon me shall want bread; nor shall my meal be imbittered

imbittered with the reflexion that it was forced from the hand of the starving peasant.

I ADMIRE your steady and spirited conduct in regard to the litigious spirit which had taken possession of your tenants—you had a glorious victory, and children unborn will bless you. Shall I tell you a little story which I have been assured is literally true?—A celebrated Scotch lawyer, afterward at the head of his profession, while at the bar, was retained by the year for a country farmer, who had causes frequently before the supreme court. The gentleman long thought his client rather unfortunate than litigious. He came one day to consult his council, who told him that the plea was not tenible——“I cannot think, sir,” said he, “but it is, for sir GEORGE MACKENZIE says”——The gentleman looked at him with indignation——“Do you read sir GEORGE?—get you down stairs, and let me never see you again!—God help the neighbourhood where such miscreants live!”——I am, my dear sir, unalterably yours.

L E T T E R XV.

Lady HARIET MORLEY to Miss ABVILLE.

I DON'T believe a single word of it—I have known miss BARTON too long, to pay the least

least regard to what she says, where the character of another woman is concerned. The poor girl may have been imprudent, but that she has gone the lengths you mention, I cannot easily believe. Miss BARTON's tongue, like the rolling snake, leaves always slime and dirt behind it, and rarely moves but to do mischief. Let us suspend our judgement; a little time will clear up the matter. Were we disposed to give credit to these reports, upon what must we found our belief? not upon improbabilities; not upon bare possibilities; far less upon the more than suspicious character of the author.

I AM sure the good lady would repeat these stories with much seeming regret, and with many a tedious parenthesis—"It gave her great pain to hear them—she could never have thought it—she hoped the girl was still innocent"—and so forth. But trust me, JULIE, not one word of all this was true; for she, and every woman of that character, have great pleasure in hearing and repeating such tales; they judge without charity, and are of all others the most ready to think hardly of their own sex. I have known miss BARTON travel half a mile in a dirty street, to have the pleasure of whispering a secret not just ripe for the public ear. I have heard her express the utmost concern that such or such a report was soon like to become public, which the very same day she would whisper into the ears of half a dozen

dozen of families. How black a heart does such conduct indicate, thus to delight in hurting others in the most tender part?—

A SCANDALOUS story, like a ball of snow, still increases as it moves along, every body adds or alters something, till at last the parents scarce know their own child. Miss BARTON's tongue frequently out-runs her judgement, for I have known her tell the same story half a dozen of different ways, in the course of one week. Indeed we used to make her often repeat her intelligence, that we might have the pleasure of exposing her to herself. I must however do her the justice to own that I never observed her to blush upon these occasions—she had always an off-come—"she had a treacherous memory—she might mistake in circumstances—she had heard the matter reported in different ways"—and the like. Tho' she knows well that one in ten don't believe a word she says, yet she still goes on in the exercise of her talent. I was present in a company when a lady of this character was severely handled—some unhappy differences in a neighbouring family had for some time been the general subject of conversation—the person I have in my eye introduced the subject, and after repeating many of the current reports, mentioned some circumstances lately come to her own knowlege, which bore hard upon the character of the mistress of the family. A gentleman in company nearly connected with

with the absent lady, with great politeness, begged to know upon what authority these things were repeated?

"SIR," said the lady, "I am not used to such questions—I don't think myself obliged to mention authors"—"I have seldom, madam, been under the necessity of asking such questions—but, by the leave of this good company, I humbly apprehend you are not entitled to wrong the character of an unfortunate woman, in her absence. I have the honour to be connected with that lady, and therefore have a right to ask the question." "'Tis extremely indelicate, sir, to suppose me capable of telling a falsehood."—"I cannot, in good manners, say, what I might say—but, madam, you must either name your author, or hold me excused if I presently send for my relation, that you may, in presence of this company, and in her own hearing, repeat what you have now said—possibly she may be able to vindicate herself."—The gentleman spoke with a determined voice—the company were silent—the lady changed colour.—"Sir," said she, "you put a cruel hardship upon me—but since you insist upon knowing my author, it was a lady with whom I drank tea at Mr ALLIBY'S, the day before yesterday."—"Will you further oblige me, madam, with this lady's name?"—"I cannot, sir, I had never seen her before; I can only say, that she was much pock-pitted, and drest in a red and green lutestring."—

"Pardon

"Pardon me to say, madam, that it shews a great liking to scandal, to repeat any thing so much to the disadvantage of another, on the authority of a person unknown—but I will presently call upon Mrs ALLIBY, to know the lady's name."——

"SIR," said another gentleman present, "you may save yourself that trouble, and the company the distress of expecting your return, for I can assure you that Mr ALLIBY and his family have been in the country for two months past, and don't return to town for a month to come."—The gentleman who had been thus affronted, made the lady a low bow, with this sarcastic compliment, "invention, madam, is the first ingredient in a great genius"—the company looked at one another—the poor woman, quite confounded, left the room. Severe as this chastisement may appear, it did not cure the lady of her itch for scandal, though it so effectually exposed her, that she could never afterward hurt any body. Enough of the vile subject—let us, my JULIE, respect ourselves, and cultivate a charitable disposition of mind. If people attended more to what is amiss in themselves, they would be less at leisure to remark upon the conduct of others. Let your next letter be longer, or I will answer it in a single line. Farewel,—love me, and be happy.

L E T T E R XVI.

To the same.

YOU observe justly, my dear JULIE, that next to malicious talkers, the busy meddling ones are the greatest pests of society. The first fix their envenomed teeth on our character, the last on the conduct of our affairs; the one attacks our heart, the other our understanding. Well!—'tis a much less reproach to be foolish than immoral, though few care to be charged with being either. The baseness of this practice appears chiefly from this, that the unfortunate are the greatest sufferers by it: if a man succeeds not in business, he is sure to become the prey of this tribe of insects. Those who know nothing of the maxims by which he conducted himself, or the circumstances and motives which determined him to this or that plan of operation, freely take the liberty of condemning him if his plans misgive. If he has but once in his whole life done an imprudent thing, it is impossible he should ever do a wise one.

THE errors of the happy and successful may be forgiven, those of the unfortunate never are. No sex or station is exempted from the lash of these busy tongues: whatever a man does, whatever he
leaves

leaves undone, affords them matter to work upon. The best motives may be mistaken and misrepresented; the most disinterested actions blamed and ridiculed: benevolence shall pass for vain glory, generosity for profusion. 'Tis well, my JULIE, that the happiness of mankind depends more upon the temper of their own minds, than upon the opinion of others. Every good man wisheth to stand fair in the opinion of the world; if he falls short of this by his own fault, he feels the disappointment; if he is deprived of it by the art and malice of others, he has within himself a treasure of which the world cannot rob him.

I WAS lately told of a pleasant revenge taken of these impertinent meddlers. About two hundred years ago, a private gentleman resolved to build a considerable addition to one of the Scotch universities *,—some applauded his design, others imputed it to vanity and ostentation. He fixed upon a plan—he began to lay in materials. In regard to the plan, some disputed his taste; his choice of the materials was blamed by others. “ ’Twas pity that a public building should not have a finer vista—that it should not be more decorated—that the doors and windows should be so small, the cielings so low”—and so forth. The gentleman went on with his building, and having ordered three of the most durable stones to be smoothed, he caused the following words to

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* Aberdeen.

be cut upon them, in capital letters, "THEY HAVE SAID—WHAT SAY THEY—LET THEM SAY." These stones were fixed in the way of a scroll in the front of the building, too high to be easily come at, where they remained till about forty years ago, when it was taken down. The gentleman who told me the story, had often seen this monument of the cool contempt with which that sensible man treated the talkers of those days,

WHAT a wretched figure do such people make in society!—constantly prying into the conduct of others, generally regardless of their own—always picking up little stories, happy in retailing them—supremely happy if you indulge them with your ear, miserable if you treat their intelligence with the just contempt. Let us, my JULIE, mind our own concerns, and leave to others the care of managing theirs. If we pretend, in all cases, to assign motives for the conduct of other people, we shall frequently mistake; if we attribute success in the world, in all, or even in most cases, to uncommon merit, we shall contradict experience. The man who sets a higher value on his character than upon money, certainly deserves our esteem; while he who values money more than his reputation, is truly a wretch, however distinguished by his birth, his fortune, or his place. Let us be sure of our own motives and principles, for these only we are accountable to God and our own minds. Fare-
wel,

wel, my JULIE, while we are happy, let others be happy as they can.

LETTER XVII.

To the same.

TO do nothing rashly, is a good rule—but when a woman has resolved on the part she is to act, affected delays can answer no useful purpose. Mr ALIX is the unrivalled object of our friend's affection—why then does she hesitate a moment? why give pain to the man she loves?—to play the tyrant before marriage, is a bad claim to indulgence after it.

“ My lord MODISH has been with you—did me the honour to enquire after me”—I am his lordship's most obedient humble servant—Had you a week's notice of his coming? did you remove every thing that might offend so nice an eye? did he bring down my aunt's vanity in his usual way,—by first commending the plate and china, and then observing what superb services he had seen abroad? Did he pay the same compliment to all the furniture in the room; from the mirrors on the wall, to the salts at table?—a pretty accomplishment this! and richly worth the small expence of two years travel. Tell my lord, that an Englishman, who
never

never travelled, has any taste in furniture, you shall as soon persuade him, that a Scotch cook exceeds a French one, or that an oyster-wench is handsomer than an Italian actress. Have you heard how he was taken down by a blunt country gentleman, when running out upon the elegant persons and fine complexions of the French?—after saying what he could for the persons of his countrymen, which my lord heard with a smile of contempt, the gentleman, turning short upon him, asked, “Pray, my lord, was ever your mother in France?”——

THE DOCTOR has been indisposed you say—thank God he is better!—I reverence that worthy man’s character—few, I am afraid, set a just value on such clergymen. Indeed their value is best known by comparison: they are rarely succeeded. Since I wrote to you, we have been to see Mrs WADLE, the rich widow, who has lately bought an estate in this neighbourhood. Her husband, who has been dead about eighteen months, was engaged in trade, and made a large fortune; which, as he had no children, he left to the sole disposal of his wife. She seems to be turned fifty, is of a middle stature, and about three yards round the waist; a perfect cit in conversation and manners.

SHE is fond of company, and all the world has been to see her. She commonly deutes on of her male-visitants landlord, and the glass goes cheerfully

fully round. Her furniture and liveries are rather shewy and expensive, than elegant and genteel; and there is more profusion than taste in her entertainments. But the good will with which she gives her victuals and drink, and her attention to her guests, make every thing agreeable. What happy man may carry off the prize, is as yet uncertain, several, I am told, have put in their claim. An English lord, a Scotch baronet, and an Irish colonel, are the three most talked of at present. An old batchelor in the neighbourhood, who has a large fortune of his own, has also put on her chains; swears she is the finest woman in England, and wisheth her estate at the devil, lest ill minded people should think it has any weight in determining his choice.

THE colonel lays close siege, and was on duty the day we dined there. He is a tall well made man, and has seen the world. Intrepid in action, cool in the greatest dangers, and perfectly skilled in the art of war. Hand and glove with his superiors, and every where happy in the good graces of the ladies. I had this character of him from the best authority, for who knows a man's qualities better than himself. 'Tis said the batchelor keeps a sharp out look, when the colonel gets a leave of absence, as he does not much affect the colour of his coat. Perhaps this letter may furnish some reflexions for my next—I wont now enter upon them. Farewel—

L E T-

L E T T E R XVIII.

To the same.

IT is very amusing, my dear JULIA, to reflect upon the incessant toil and fatigue which people engaged in trade can cheerfully submit to, for the acquisition of an useless treasure. I say an useless one, for such certainly all fortunes are beyond a certain extent, tho' it may be very difficult to fix the limits. Did their desires point at the necessities, the conveniencies, or even the elegancies of life, one would be less surprized; but to heap up riches, purely for their own sake, and without any one rational end in view, seems to me the mere effect of folly and intemperance of mind.

THE man who amassed the large fortune which now makes the widow WADLE the idol of needy fortune-hunters, would, I am told, have scrupled a shilling to a poor family, or a bottle of wine to entertain a friend. Pitiableness! to set so high a value upon that superfluity, which he acquired with so much pain, and held with so great anxiety; which he knew could not prolong his life for a single hour, and which he behoved to know would soon be the property of others. I think there was more common sense than prudence in the Dutch-

man's

man's conduct—He had as much money as, by a moderate computation, would keep him so many years, and so many years he reckoned upon living. He locked up his cash, and expended every year just so much as he had intended to expend, and never troubled his head about consequences—The calculation seemed to have been made rather near, as he was obliged to part with his clothes and moveables to help out. These, however, he managed frugally, and when he came to die, a pair of slippers were left. He ordered the figure of them to be cut in stone, and placed over his grave, with two Dutch words under them, which in our language signify, JUST ENOUGH.

I HEARD a story lately which shocked me much; I feel for human nature while I repeat it—A citizen, who began the world with a small stock, said to himself, “Money draws respect upon a man; without the command of money one cannot live at his ease. I will therefore be very attentive to business, till I get above the world; when I have got a hundred thousand pounds, I will retire.” He became possessor of the sum desired—his faculties in their full vigour, his character unblemished. “I am yet too young, said he, to retire from business—I might indeed live comfortably, and make a tolerable figure; but in a few years I may be fairly worth another hundred thousand—my connexions in trade are formed—the difficult, the disagreeable part is

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long over. What envy, what distinction, will not this additional sum draw upon me.—A small part of it properly applied, may clap a coronet on my chariot—and then my children!—I hesitate no longer, I am determined to continue in trade.”

He launched into trade deeper than ever; he overleaped every obstacle in his way—money flowed in upon him—he was the pride of his relations, the envy of his rivals, and the happiest man the sun rose upon—But with all this, he was every year guilty of frauds for which a meaner man would have been hanged. O the madness and folly of mankind!—a malignant fever stopt his career. The doctor was called—symptoms were unfavourable—the awful truth was told, “Set thy house in order, for thou shalt surely die” —The miserable being was thunder struck—he raged, he swore, he abused the physician, his family, and all mankind—he insisted that they had all combined to destroy him. In one word, he died, and thus his hopes perished!—God preserve us, my dear JULIE, from the insatiable desire of riches, the meanest, and most tormenting of all passions. Farewel.

L. E. T.

longer, I am deterred from continuing in trade." To the same.

NO one word, my dear JULIE, not one word of compliment must pass between us; 'tis contrary to articles—what has real friendship to do with compliments? I always lay open my heart to you; where my sentiments are just, profit by them; where they are wrong, impute it to mistake: in the first case you must not flatter; in the last, I know you will forgive. You think the honest Dutchman must have left this world with much less reluctance than the unfortunate citizen; certainly he did, and, I should think, with at least an equal chance of being happy in the next. As a feeling heart is the source of our most exquisite pleasures, you think their enjoyments must be very poor, whose minds are totally engrossed by the world, and never at leisure to think of the distress and necessities of others. Nothing can be more just; the serene joy which springs up in a good mind, on the exertion of the benevolent principle, cannot be described; like the peace of God, it passeth knowledge.

You say the DOCTOR preached upon that subject last Sunday—then he would be in his proper element. He never shines more than in recommend-

ing and illustrating that temper of mind which his own life so strongly exemplifies. Such a man, my JULIE, really does honour to his cloth, does honour to human nature. How have I been charmed to hear him, with a pleasing smile upon his countenance, describing the heart-felt satisfaction of a good man, relieving the distressed, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, instructing the ignorant, and making the widow's heart to sing for joy? how have I trembled to hear him, with a stern countenance, and contracted brow, lay open the dark recesses of little minds, which feel not for others? and exposing the madness and folly of leaning to a broken reed, which must soon fail them.

METHINKS I now see him, with his arms extended, and in his eye a mixture of pity and indignation, looking round upon his auditors, and hear him with an emphasis, not to be expressed, repeating these awful words, "thou fool! this night thy soul shall be required of thee"—and then!—"whose shall these things be, wherein thou trustest?"—Why, my dear JULIE, is it become unpolite to say a word of religion in a private letter? it was not so in the days of our fathers; they were not ashamed, upon all occasions, to acknowledge their dependence upon God. Is not religion the same serious and important thing as ever? is this refinement much to the honour or emolument of society?

WHY,

Why, my friend, is it become fashionable to abuse the clergy? are there not a thousand ways besides for a boy to show his wit, or a girl her pertness? Religion is not a whit the less amiable, that enthusiasts, and wrong headed people, have perverted it to the worst purposes; nor are the clergy, as a body, the less respectable, that there are found among them men of loose principles, and dissolute lives; the tares must grow with the wheat till harvest. Ordination confers a title to preach the gospel, but does not confer grace; perhaps no man will behave decently as a clergyman, who would not have behaved decently in any other sphere of life. I have been often shocked with the illiberal jests of some gentlemen, upon a body, to which, I think, the world owes much of its peace and tranquillity. 'Tis true, their instructions are but little attended to; men hear them, and still go on in their own way. But is it a small matter, to restrain men from growing worse; and this, I imagine, is the lowest merit the clergy can be allowed.

To attend public worship, implies some regard to religion; men find their course of life uneasy to them, they are conscious that they frequently do amiss, and that they often omit to do what they ought—these are just sentiments: and those who indulge them, cannot attend public worship without being in some degree the better for it. If they have not the resolution presently to set about altering

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ing their course of life, yet they sin with the greater remorse, and may in end be reformed. While those who totally withdraw from church, generally proceed from bad to worse, till at last they seem to have lost all sense of their dependance upon God; they live from day to day, and from year to year, seemingly as insensible of it as the beasts that graze in the meadows. Let us give the clergy credit, as well for the evils they prevent, as for the comfort and assistance that the well disposed receive from their ministrations. Pity it is that their usefulness should be so much hurt by the worldly tempers, and indiscreet conduct of some among themselves. Their task is arduous; mankind is greatly corrupted; and whence shall they be taken but from among that number? When I have considered the many qualities essentially necessary in a clergyman, I have often wondered that young men so freely offered themselves as candidates for the ministry.—I am interrupted,—the bell rings for supper.—Farewel.—

L E T T E R XX.

To the same.

TRUE, my JULIE, we cannot respect a clergyman who behaves indecently—but do we make the just allowances for the weakness of human nature? do we consider that clergymen, as well

well as others, may be hurt by the bad example of those around them? do we consider that they are exposed to the various accidents of life, in common with the laity, and must feel them, and be affected with them in the same manner? In all professions there are some men of superior talents, and we are apt to make these the standard when we judge of others; but it is dangerous, it is unjust: by this we are led to set an over-value on the first, and to under-rate the real merit of the last.

WHAT dignity of sentiment and manner, what propriety of language, what elegance and force of expression, should that man have, who is to instruct and direct a whole parish? what purity of manners, what contempt of the world, is requisite in those who are to lead us into all virtue and holiness? It is said, I think of saint AUGUSTINE, that he hid himself when they were going to make him a bishop; and I could name a young gentleman, whom his relations intended for the church, but who, after he had gone through a great part of the previous education, could by no intreaties be prevailed upon to enter into orders; so high were his ideas of the dignity, importance, and difficulties of the ministerial function. That these considerations, and these only, restrained him, was abundantly evident from the piety of his future life. If clergymen keep much company, they are blamed; if they shut themselves up among their books, they are also
blamed

blamed; every man in the parish is concerned in their conduct, and every man takes the liberty of judging it; often, I am afraid, with little knowledge, and still less candour.

It seems unjust to debar them from society, for the more a good man is in company, the more opportunities he has of being useful. I think indeed, that those clergymen who have not resolution to support the dignity of their character, should be very cautious of the company they keep; there is a respect due to the cloath, but all men have not a sense of decency. It must however be owned, that a weak man, whether lockt up or at large, will always find opportunities to expose himself. No man takes less upon himself than our friend the DOCTOR; but no man knows better what is due to his character. Cheerful himself, he loves cheerful company; and in his conversation happily unites the gravity of the clergyman, with the ease and good breeding of the gentleman. A promiscuous company dined one day at Mr BELFORD's—the DOCTOR was there. The company were sociable and agreeable, but for the noisy impertinence of a stranger, who swore at almost every word, and every now and then turning to the DOCTOR, begged his pardon.

For some time our friend said not a word, nor took the least notice of the gentleman's rudeness,

or

of the apologies she made—at last, turning towards him, with a grave smile upon his face, “Sir,” said he, “by your appearance and manner, you seem to have seen a little of the polite world; it was therefore to be expected that you knew the common rules of behaviour—When one is guilty of an offence in company, it is usual to make the proper acknowledgement to those present of the greatest dignity—behave at least, two superiors here, God and the landlady!!” The poor man was so struck with the just severity of this reprimand, that without saying a word, he took his hat and left the company. Though he had never seen the Doctor before, he called upon him next day, thanked him for the reasonable correction, and has ever since been one of his best friends.

Thus, my dear Juliet, a clergyman who behaves with dignity, has the double advantage of promoting religion and decency in the world, and of securing respect to himself; while those who sink below their character, and meanly temporise with all companies, bring a reproach upon religion, and expose themselves to contempt. Farewell!—

his pardon.

LET some time our friend said not a word, nor took the least notice of the gentleman's interest.

L E T T E R XXI.

To the same.

WHAT you hint of lady —— shocks me not a little—the remotest indication of levity in a married woman, is dreadful. I know her husband is a brute, and in that view I sincerely feel for her. But shall a woman debase herself, and reproach her connexions, to be revenged of a wretch below her contempt? I say below her contempt; as a man she must despise him, though as her husband she owes him respect and fidelity. The first is absolutely unavoidable, and therefore cannot be criminal; the last she owes to decency, to her solemn vows and engagements, to her character, to the credit of her relations. Why, you will say, did she come under these engagements?—let herself answer that question—I believe upon a presumption which has been fatal to many a poor woman's peace; the hopes of reclaiming a libertine. Admitting the thing possible, what woman of common prudence would stake her all against a bare possibility? I could wish those heroines who undertake such mighty feats, would but coolly consider how many chances are against them.

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THE SQUIRE, you say, has made up matters with his house-keeper—in a good time with all my heart!—When a man of sense and breeding plays the fool in this way, I regret it; in the present case there is no necessity: a man who only values a woman because she can dress a hare, and mend his linen, would be extremely idle to be nice in the choice of a wife. My uncle rails at me, for not writing—tell him, when he has learned to know the respect due to a lady, I will renew our correspondence: he is two letters in my debt. I make the same reply to the DOCTOR's complaint, with this aggravation, that in other cases he makes it a rule to render unto all their dues. If I were near enough, I would whisper in his ear, that though woman be the weaker vessel, she has sufficient strength to resent neglects. Nothing under a whole sheet will make his peace.

My brother's post-chaise arrived about an hour ago.—I leave this place to-morrow morning.—Farewel.

L E T T E R XXII.

To the same.

I GOT home, my dear JULIE, two days ago, but so much fatigued that I could not write to you
I 2 sooner.

sooner. I found my brother not in the best humour; he was just returned from a county meeting, where he thought he had been ill used. The countess, who, you know, is the best natured woman upon earth, caught me in her arms—"Welcome, my dear HARIET! welcome!—you come in good time to decide a difference."—"A difference, my lady!"—"The matter is shortly this, your brother insists that he has reason to be very angry—I contend that he has not."—"Perhaps, madam, much may be said upon both sides—I believe I had as well not meddle in the matter."—"You are right, HARIET," said my brother, "there is nothing got by meddling in family-quarrels—your sister is so very unreasonable as to maintain, that it is a virtue to be insensible of bad usage." "Not guilty, my lord, I will be tried by my peers—my position is, that common injuries should give us but common pain—does lady HARIET condemn it?" "I do not, madam,—if I were angry, perhaps I should."—The countess smiled—my lord bowed—and thus ends the story.

It was my first care after I came home, to visit the arbour which you and I planned out last autumn; it thrives immensely; scarce a shrub gone back. An unlucky mole has indeed made some depredations, for which I have declared war against the whole race—the gardener is the minister of my vengeance. Have I not a right to chastise these
bold

bold invaders of my territory? My kingdom, of twelve yards square, was ceded to me and my heirs for ever, by my generous brother—have the mighty sovereigns of Europe so good a title to all they possess? I have declared it a free port to birds of every wing, hawks only excepted; but no quadruped or creeping thing shall set a foot thereon with impunity. What a poor spot would my good sister, the empress of Russia, think this!—and yet a much smaller will accommodate her majesty, in little more than a hundred years hence.

I MET with a pleasant accident the second day of my journey—about half an hour after I had put up to breakfast, an elderly gentleman rode to the gate of the inn, and asked if a young lady had been seen to pass that way?—"She did not pass," said a servant, "but is now in the house at breakfast." The gentleman immediately dismounted, and desired to be shown into the room. Ushered by the waiter, he came up stairs in a furtout and pair of dirty boots, and without ceremony, bolted into the room. "O madam!" said he, "have I caught you?"—I stared at the man—"Caught me, sir!"—without making any reply, but turning short upon the servant, "Plague upon the fellow," said he, "this is not my daughter!"—"Your daughter!" said the waiter, "I neither know you nor your daughter." The poor man was quite confounded, and began to make legs and bows—"A meer mistake, sir, a meer
mistake,

mistake, don't be uneasy—if you have not breakfasted, I should be glad of your company.”—“To tell the truth, madam,” said he, “I have not breakfasted, though I have rode a great way, and if your ladyship can forgive me.”—“Most readily, sir, pray take a seat.”

WHEN we had drank two or three dishes of coffee, the old gentleman began again to accuse himself—“It was a foolish thing, madam, a very foolish thing, but the girl so run in my head, that I had not leisure to ask more questions. When I opened the room door, I could have taken my bible oath that your ladyship was my own born child.” Upon a little further conversation I understood, that he had a small estate of his own, and rented a large farm about eighteen miles distant—that he meant to have married his daughter to a farmer in the neighbourhood, but that the girl preferred one about thirty years younger, with whom she had eloped last night. He was so intent upon the pursuit, that he scarce stopt half an hour.

YOU see, my JULIE, what idle stuff I will write to you, rather than not write at all.—If next post don't bring me a letter, I shall be in the dumps.

L E T.

L E T T E R XXIII.

To the same.

I AM happy, my JULIE, extremely happy, in acknowlegeing the receipt of your agreeable letter—thank you, my dear, for the tender wishes which accompanied me on my journey. Do you know what a wretch you was concerned about?—did you ever suspect me of dishonesty?—A French gentleman on a journey, asked his servant whether he had put up *all* his things?—“ Yes, master, said the fellow, *at least*.”—I seem to have proceeded upon the same secure principle, when I left Bellmont-Hall, for though I miss nothing of my own, I found this morning, in the bottom of my dressing box, lady BETTY’S Milton, and a volume of the Spectator.

FRANKLEY, you say, “ is the happiest man, the best husband upon earth”—I rejoice to hear it—“ In all companies he exclaims against celibacy;” late converts are generally the most zealous—I hope his conversion will bring great acquisitions to the conjugal state. No question the care and tenderness of a good woman is a comfortable circumstance in any man’s lot, and must be doubly valued by those who had long lived in the solitary state of celibacy,
exposed

exposed to the caprice and neglects of mercenary servants. I had an agreeable letter the other day from Bellmont-Hall, and find the widow is still mistress of her person and fortune; the siege is carried on with great vigour, and resolution, but as yet there is no appearance of surrender or capitulation. It is generally thought, however, that the colonel's bravery and perseverance will in end prevail. My lord's delicacy is hurt by the long delay, and the baronet begins to feel the expence of such a tedious attendance. The batchelor has compounded matters with the colonel, and in consequence of some disagreeable inuendoes, fairly relinquished his claim: it is a shocking thing to live in constant dread of cold iron. Farewel, my JULIE, give me credit for a short letter.

L E T T E R XXIV.

To the same.

I RECEIVED your letter, my dear JULIE, with the usual pleasure, and quickly turned up the seal. It was black!—I dropt the paper from my hand!—I took it up again, but my hand trembled—“I have heard of no relation indisposed; alas! whom have I lost!” I could wish it were the custom to seal the letter which brings the accounts of a friend's death with coloured wax; it gives a shock

to the spirits, not to be exprest, to see this livery of death upon a paper, when one has many dear friends and relations that may be the subject of it. A woman may tremble for an absent husband, a father for an only son, when, as in the present case, a third cousin has only died. Why should an idle custom, of no sort of consequence, either to the dead or living, expose one to a moment's pain?—

CONCLUDE not from this that poor BILLY's death is indifferent to me.—No, my JULIE, I sincerely regret him, and heartily sympathize with his most affectionate father. Had the young man lived, I am persuaded he would have done honour to his relations; it must be now their consolation, that he promised well, and died with a fair character, in the service of his country. Nor are these, my JULIE, small considerations; he has died young, but many much younger have reproached their relations. It is of no consequence whether our lives are long or short, provided only that they are usefully employed. It is very natural for parents to wish long life to their children; it is a pardonable weakness to hope a great deal of satisfaction and happiness from their conduct in life. But upon what a slippery foundation are these hopes generally built. How many parents have rejoiced in the recovery of a child, who only lived to reproach, perhaps to disgrace them? how many have mourned, bitterly mourned, for children, whom perhaps God only
K removed

removed from dangers and difficulties to which he knew their strength would have been unequal? Of the first I was lately told a remarkable instance, take it as follows, and depend upon the truth of it, as my author was present upon the spot.

ABOUT fifty years ago, in a certain town in the north of Scotland, a young lady, about sixteen years of age, of distinguished beauty, and an amiable character, was seized with a violent fever; symptoms were unpromising; her life was despaired of—her relations were inconsolable; the whole town was in tears. Crowds thronged the gate from morn till night, and the united prayers of the whole inhabitants were put up for her recovery—they were indulged—contrary to all appearances she recovered. Judge what must have been the joy of her relations, when I tell you that thousands who had no connexion with her or them, congratulated one another upon her recovery. Alas! my JULIE, must I add, that in a few years this unfortunate girl reproached her relations, reproached her sex, and turned out one of the most shameless prostitutes that ever disgraced a neighbourhood.

IT would be wise in us, my dear JULIE, always to consider ourselves as under the government of a being of infinite wisdom, who knows best what is proper for us and our friends. We are too short sighted to be able to conduct ourselves through the
labyrinth

labyrinth of human life; let us therefore cast our cares upon him, for we are assured, *that he careth for us.* Farewel.

L E T T E R XXV.

To the same.

OF all subjects, my dear JULIE, death is naturally the most alarming to the human mind, which starts at the remotest idea of dissolution; and yet, by habit and due reflexion, the thoughts of death become familiar, and even agreeable. In the bloom of life, in the pride of health, when all is joyous without and within us, we are little disposed to think of death; we fancy ourselves happy, and are quite at peace with the world. But the meridian of life past, our health impaired, our constitution broken, things appear in a very different light; the world has not those charms which we once thought it had,

Most of those whom we remember to have seen old, have been long in their graves; many of those whom we knew infants are grown up to be men and women. Great numbers of our youthful play-fellows are in another world, and others of them drop daily around us; we begin to think, we must think, that we ourselves shall soon follow. We

know they have no more a share in any thing done under the sun, but we know also that they are beyond the reach of the evils and anxieties of human life. If we attend to the dictates of reason, we will not repine at an universal law of our nature ; what the SUPREME BEING has appointed for all, must be necessary for all, and upon the whole beneficial for all. If we avail ourselves of the light of revelation, we shall know, that death is not the terrible object which our guilt and fears represent it, but a mere cessation of the animal life. That our present is a probationary state, in which we are candidates for another beyond the grave, and that in the future it shall be well or ill with us, as we have demeaned ourselves here.

If our lives are, upon the whole, devoted to the interests of piety and virtue, though we may have much to charge ourselves with, by the grace of the gospel, we may lift up our eyes with hope. If they are devoted to the service of vice and folly, we can have no prospect of future happiness ; we are assured, that as a man soweth, so shall he also reap. Habits of virtue will bring our souls to a weak resemblance of the DIVINE BEING, and fit and prepare them for future happiness ; and habits of vice will have just the contrary effect ; by these we lose all relish for pure and intellectual pleasures, and in heaven itself would be unhappy. The good man, who has spent his life in acts of piety and benevolence,

lence, dreads not the approach of death; he looks upon it, not as an enemy, but as the kind friend who shall introduce him to a state of existence more suited to the temper and disposition of his mind; where peace, and joy, and happiness, shall prevail for ever. To be united to the fountain of being and of happiness; to be admitted into the society of angels and happy spirits; to see and converse with all the good and virtuous men that ever existed; to live with them, and to live with them for ever—O my JULIE! what hopes are these!—Farewel—the more we think of death, the less we shall fear it.

L E T T E R XXVI.

To the same.

I HAD an agreeable letter, by last post, from my friend Mrs MANLEY, whom you have often heard me mention; 'tis amazing with what life and spirit that woman writes, though were you to sit by her half an hour, you would scarce think she could live a week. I never saw a greater disparity between soul and body, the one delicate and infirm, the other all life and vigour. I think I have mentioned to you the accident by which we became acquainted, an accident which I shall ever esteem fortunate, as I owe to it a great deal of pleasure and improvement. Shall I amuse you with a more particular

particular account of her character than any I have hitherto given you? I will; though I am sure I am unable to do it justice.

FEW women have met with more to try their virtues, few have made a nobler stand against the accidents and contingencies of human life. She lost her husband, a man of sense and probity, several years ago, and had not the pleasure of paying the last duties to him; he died in a foreign country, to which his affairs had called him. Her children were left young; some of them are not just what she could wish; and her worldly affairs, had it not been for her strict attention and œconomy, must have run into disorder. When all this is superadded to a weak and delicate constitution, one must allow that she had enough to struggle with; but she has a mind superior to all difficulties. With a nice discernment, and a great fund of good sense, my friend has a taste for reading, and is well acquainted with the works of the best writers in the English and French languages. These are the favourite companions of her leisure hours, but she never suffers her amusements to interfere with business, or the necessary attention due to the concerns of her family.

SHE has a heart very susceptible of the misfortunes and distresses of others, and a mind never happier than in relieving them. Her sentiments
of

of religion are noble and generous; tho' she holds communion but with one society of Christians, yet with a charity truly catholic, she wisheth the happiness of all the human race. Friendship she esteems the greatest blessing of human life, and what alone can make it supportable. She is cautious in the choice of her friends, but upon proof, invariably attached to them. In her conversation, as in her stile, there is something peculiar to herself; she always expresses her sentiments with great force and vivacity, speaks her mind freely, and is altogether a stranger to that supple complaisance, which with equal ease can flatter or defame.

THE dignity of her mind never suffered her to set much value on the opinion of the multitude, nor, to court its favour, would she ever go a step beyond what she believed to be her duty, and conducive to the happiness of her family. Perhaps, upon some occasions, this may have drawn upon her the charge of obstinacy and singularity; but a charge of this kind, brought at random, can never hurt a mind conscious of the rectitude of its own intentions. The very best may err, but it is well that in many cases we are only accountable to God and our own minds. As the state of her health permits her to go but little abroad, of a few select friends, one or more are generally with her. Among these there is a lady much younger than herself, but of all others, the dearest to her. This lady

dy is distinguished for strong masculine sense, great knowlege of the world, and a very benevolent disposition of mind.

THERE is a coincidence in their sentiments, which greatly recommends them to one another; both have an unbounded love and charity for mankind, and both detest the appearance of every thing fordid and mean. Both are sensible of the joys of friendship, and both are strangers to the low arts of dissimulation. Candid, generous, and open, they live as if they had but one soul, and one care; to alleviate the distress, and promote the happiness of one another. If I am in any danger of setting an overvalue on myself, it must be from this circumstance, that so many worthy people are my friends. Farewel, my JULIE, may our friends be happy!—

L E T T E R XXVII.

To the same.

I AM sorry to tell you that the little place Mr ALSTON expected, is given to another; I believe he wanted it much. Tho' a man of acknowledged worth, he has been unsuccessful in the world, but has a mind much above bettering his circumstances by any thing mean or ungentleel. What a blessing is independance?—what must it have cost

a man

a man of his feelings to trouble his friends? how must it have hurt him to find that their interest, joined to his own merit, had no weight? how grating must it have been, to see the place given to one, not only of an exceptionable character, but one who had no manner of occasion for the emoluments of it?—

LORD LATON dined here the other day, quite sunk with a disappointment he has lately met with—he had set his heart upon being made lord lieutenant and *custos rotulorum* of the county, but another has been appointed to the office; and what is quite insupportable, a man whose interest my lord has long affected to despise. Thus, my JULIE, real or imaginary wants perpetually distress mankind; the last are by much the hardest to bear: real necessities may be relieved, and often are relieved by the friendship and humanity of others—but who can administer consolation to a distempered mind, insensible of real enjoyments, and eagerly grasping at shadows?—Strange! that the happiness of a man of fortune, should depend upon the accident of who shall, or shall not, be prime minister at such a period; upon the humour that minister may be in, or the views he may then have. How many diseased in mind have lain at this dirty pool for twenty years together, without being once able to step in, when the waters were troubled?

I VENERATE the character, and admire the resolution of lord APLY—he had done great services to government, he had even obliged the minister; he was disinterested, and scorned to make a merit of his duty. An honorary office became vacant; my lord applied for it, and was refused; it was given to one no less his inferior in birth and fortune, than in virtue and merit. Did my lord grieve and hang down the head? no; did he abuse the minister in all companies? no; the dignity of his mind was hurt, the dignity of his mind set him above the vulgar methods of resentment. He called upon the minister, and with a determined countenance, flatly charged him with a partiality which disgraced his administration. “I repent not, sir,” said he, “that I have served my country, I blush not to own that I have obliged you; the first was my indispensable duty, the last the effect of an honest prejudice; I knew you not sufficiently, and therefore believed you incapable of adding insult to disappointment. The last was nothing; his majesty may have many subjects who have deserved better; he may have many more worthy of the office I too meanly solicited—but, sir, you have not had the good fortune to confer it upon one of these. I wont lessen myself by descending into the gentleman’s character whom you have preferred to me; possibly he may serve you in cases where I would not.

I COME

I COME not to receive apologies, I come not to upbraid you with my services; no, sir, I come to settle accounts with you, and to take shame to myself for so long mistaking your character; I come to bid an eternal adieu to courts and ministers. Shall I, sir, who have thousands of happy and industrious people depending upon myself, meanly depend upon a minister? shall his frown or smile affect me? no, sir, I will retire to the country, and learn to enjoy a happiness to which courts and ministers are strangers." The sequel of my lord's conduct upon this occasion, would swell my letter to an unreasonable length, I shall therefore reserve it for the subject of another. Farewel.

L E T T E R XXVIII.

To the same.

WHAT my lord said, was not the effect of a gust of passion, but the cool resolution of a determined mind; the minister made apologies; they were disregarded. A much smaller indignity was sufficient to awaken a generous mind to a sense of its independance. My lord had a fine estate, which chiefly lay in a thriving populous country. He settled upon it, and by every method in his power, promoted the happiness of his dependants. He declared himself the friend and patron of the

sober and industrious poor, and gave his steward a general order to assist every man who attended to his business, and might occasionally want the use of a little money.

WHEN the family moved to town in winter, which was only for four months, the whole country became low spirited; when it returned, with the spring, joy was visible in every face. Thus my lord lived many years, happy, independant, and beloved; and at last died, high in the esteem of all good men. Of many that I could mention, I shall give you but one instance of his benevolence. A village upon his estate, in which several manufactures were carried on, but which had suffered much by fire, and the bankruptcies in consequence of that calamity, he took into his particular protection; and so judiciously assisted the frugal and industrious, that in a few years it became one of the most noted and thriving in the country. Whatever it could furnish, useful for the family, he would purchase nowhere else, and, in consideration of their late misfortunes, he procured for the inhabitants a great deal of custom from his friends and acquaintance.

WHEN my lord died, the inhabitants paid a just compliment to his memory; a compliment which did him more honour than all the escutcheons hung on his tomb. They erected in the mercat place, a plain column, thirty feet high, and railed it in
with

with iron, with the following inscription on the base:

IN MEMORY
OF THE GOOD LORD APLY,
TO WHOSE BOUNTY AND HUMANITY
THIS VILLAGE OWED SO MUCH,
THE GRATEFUL INHABITANTS
ERECTED THIS COLUMN.

—Whence is it, my dear JULIE, that such illustrious examples have so little influence upon the conduct of others?—plainly from the baleful influence of luxury and dissipation, which have a natural tendency to sink and debase the human mind. Can that man be sensible of the meanness of dependance, who is a slave to his passions? can he be hurt by the contempt of others, who constantly disregards the stinging reproaches of his own mind?

It to be the lord of unbounded acres be a man's supreme ambition, if he lives but to rattle a die, or gamble at a horse race, he will relish no other enjoyment. Avarice, under the mask of pleasure, will take entire possession of his soul, and this dirty passion he will gratify at the expence of every thing good and praise worthy. To such a one, the frowns and neglects of a minister are things of course, he has no standard of excellence in himself, and therefore cannot be hurt by a conduct and temper similar to his own. He will still dangle on, through ill re-
report

port and good report, in the service of vice and folly, till he is supplanted by superior interest, or till age and infirmities check his course; when he finds, to his cost, the truth and propriety of the wise man's observation, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity!"—Charge me not, my dear JULIE, with pride and arrogance—there is a dependance equally necessary and honourable; a dependance upon God: this is the anchor of our hopes, the foundation of all our happiness; but man, whose breath is in his nostrils, wherein is he to be accounted of?—Farewel—be contented, and be happy.

L E T T E R XXIX.

To the same.

NO, my JULIE, GOD forbid! conjugal infidelity is too common, but can never become reputable. We see the highest station cannot screen it from disgrace and infamy; nor is the woman one jot the less despised by sober minded people, whether she has been seduced by a prince or a peasant; it is the action, not the person, which constitutes the crime. Were there even an end of all principle, the pride of families and individuals would secure us against the danger you apprehend.

You

You observe, justly, that the world seems to look upon chastity but as a female virtue; a man is, commonly, not a whit the worse received in the company of his own sex, I am sorry to add, nor of ours, tho' he has undone half a score of women. But a woman who has swerved from her duty meets with very different treatment. This partiality is very pathetically expressed by one of our English poets, in the following verses.

Hard is the fate unhappy women find,
 And such the curse entail'd upon our kind,
 That man, the lawless libertine may rove
 Free and unquestion'd through the wilds of love;
 But woman, sense and nature's easy fool,
 If poor weak woman swerves from virtue's rule;
 If strongly charm'd she quits the thorny way,
 And in the softer paths of pleasure stray,
 Ruin ensues, reproach and endless shame,
 And one false step intirely damns her fame.
 In vain with tears the loss she may deplore,
 In vain look back on what she was before,
 She falls, like stars that set to rise no more.

WELL! my JULIE, blameable as this partiality may be, where is the virtuous woman who would wish it otherways?—would it be for the interests of virtue and society that this only remaining fence of chastity were thrown down? Let men boast of a liberty which neither the laws of religion nor
 their

their country allow them; who seeth not that their folly is frequently punished? the profligate husband, by the still greater profligacy of his wife or daughter. Let us, my JULIE, set a just value upon ourselves; let our virtue, our pride, or whatever else the men shall be pleased to call it, teach us to let them know their distance; for thus, and thus only can we secure their esteem and respect. They may charge us with cruelty, so is the shepherd cruel who protects his lambs from the fox. Like slaves trained up to the lash, by indulgence they become our masters, and ten times greater tyrants in their turn. Were it not for the virtue of some women, and the pride and policy of others, the world would become a perfect brothel. I cannot think, however, that the men seriously wish things to come to this pass; in that case, the man of pleasure would be deprived of the chief happiness of his life, that of seducing an innocent woman. Be virtuous, and be happy, farewell.

L E T T E R XXX.

To the same.

IF we reflect a little upon the manners of the age, we shall be the less surprized that so many women reproach their connexions. By the increase of trade and commerce, money is dispers'd
over

over the whole island, and where-ever it has come, has corrupted the morals of the people. Pride and vanity are not now vices peculiar to people of rank and fortune, but have overspread all stations; from the throne to the cottage, luxury and dissipation prevail. If court ladies are drest out in all the fopperies of foreign nations, merchants and shop-keepers wives must follow their example; on a Sunday one shall hardly distinguish the wife of a shoe-black from my lady mayorefs. Tradesmen keep their carriages, clerks and apprentices their riding horses, livery men, and mistresses. I am no friend to sumptuary laws, but could wish that these people were a little more under the influence of common prudence.

I AM afraid, my JULIE, that there is something amiss in the present mode of female education—to dress, to dance, to handle a musical instrument, or play a hand at cards, are genteel accomplishments; but why should they engross so much of a woman's time? our mothers and grandmothers were not unskilled in these, but they were also trained up in the knowlege of domestic affairs. If people of rank will educate their daughters only to make a figure in the drawing-room, or at a gaming table; if they have no emulation but to rival one another in these unessential qualities, and make it their chief study to draw most eyes at the church or play house, what are we to expect?

M

The

The conduct of life is a serious and important affair—let me ask a few serious questions. Should not every mother, of whatever quality, instruct her daughter in the management and oeconomy of a family, because she may one day be the mistress of a family? should not every mother instruct her daughter in the care of children, because she may one day be the mother of children? should not every mother endeavour to implant in her daughter's mind the first principles of virtue, because if she comes to mature age, these principles will be essentially necessary for the conduct and happiness of her future life? should not every mother teach her daughter to set a high value on her character, as a treasure which if once lost can never be recovered? should not every mother consider herself as the living example of her daughter, and therefore, in the expressive stile of holy write, "abstain from all appearance of evil."

WHEN this shall be the case, I will venture to say, we shall see other days, and hear less of conjugal infidelity. But while girls are trained up in vanity, and, if I may use the expression, educated to the love of pleasure, no wonder if pleasure is the idol to which they bow. We are shocked, my dear JULIE, to hear that the Circassians train up their daughters for prostitution, and sell them to the highest bidder; but might they not retort upon us, "Is is the custom of our country; have you nothing

thing similar to it in your own?—we sell our daughters for money or goods; yours are bartered for lands and annuities—with us money is the one thing needful; do you despise it? with us it makes up for the want of every quality; does merit supply the want of it with you? our daughters are instructed to be faithful to those who purchase them; if they are sometimes unfaithful, their infidelity is not without example among yourselves.” Farewel, my JULIE, let us always remember that virtue’s ways are pleasantness, and all her paths peace.

L E T T E R XXXI.

To the same.

WHAT must you not feel, what must you not fear, my dear JULIE, when I tell you that the amiable miss AUBREY has been seized with a nervous fever, on a visit at Mr ALLWORTH’S. Her relations are greatly alarmed, tho’ happy in the full persuasion that all possible care will be taken of her: lady MARGARET’S humanity and tenderness leaves no room to doubt of it. This is the sixth day of the fever, and I am sorry to tell you, that the physicians think the symptoms unfavourable. I set out for Mr ALLWORTH’S the moment I heard of her illness, which was only three days ago. O my JULIE! how was I shocked to find that dear

M 2

girl

girl stretched upon a bed, the curtains close drawn, the room darkened, and not able to put forth her hand to salute me—she knew me at once, and was just able to say, “ My dear friend ! ”——

LADY MARGARET, who sat by, saw her affected, and gave me a signal to seem as little concerned as possible—she graspt my hand, and often attempted to speak, but as her head was greatly affected, could only make out a few broken sentences. I have not been from her bed side two hours, at a time, since I have been here. She has some times a little respite, and in these flattering moments I indulge the pleasing hope that she may yet do well; but alas ! these hopes are soon dashed, by the return of the fever with redoubled violence. My dear friend is intirely resigned to the will of God, and when able, speaks of dying without any uneasy apprehensions. To part with her friends seems most to affect her, “ but, my dear HARIET,” said she one day, “ the journey of life will soon be over with us all, when we shall meet again to part no more—few of us have much reason to be in love with this world.”

WHAT a striking lesson, my dear cousin, is the sick-bed of a friend?—there the world appears in its just light; its pursuits and follies lose their bewitching charms. Pride and ambition seem downright madness;—in riches, and honours, and lands
there

there is nothing upon which the soul can rest ; titles are empty sounds, and the best connexions of no sort of consequence.—But I go to attend my friend.—Farewel, my JULIE,—may heaven disappoint our fears !——

C A R D.

NOT the smallest favourable symptom, my dear JULIE, but stronger, and still stronger appearances of dissolution—I am but just alive—farewel !——

C A R D.

'TIS over, my dear JULIE,—the bitterness of death is over—my friend is happy—I am resigned—
“ The LORD gave, the LORD hath taken away—
blessed be the name of the LORD !”——

C A R D.

THE solemn ceremony has been performed—
earth to earth, dust to dust—I leave this place to-morrow—when I have a little recovered my spirits you may expect to hear from me.

L E T.

L E T T E R XXXII.

To the same.

I WILL not distress you, my dear JULIE, with a minute detail of what my friend suffered during the last days of her illness. It is the nature of the disorder of which she died, very much to affect the head, and therefore she was but at some times sensible; when she was, she appeared calm and resigned. Two days before her death, while I sat by her, she put forth her hand and took hold of mine—she prest it to her heart—she lifted it up and kissed it—and then dropt it with so tender a look—O my JULIE!—but I forget my promise——We hold our lives, my dear cousin, by a very precarious tenure, and know neither the time when, nor the place where we shall be called upon to yield them up; “let us therefore watch and be sober, as we know not what a day may bring forth.”

CAN there be a stronger inducement to humanity and universal benevolence, than our not knowing to whose friendly offices we may be indebted at last? The distress and unavoidable trouble that Mr ALL-WORTH's family had by my friend's death and sickness, gave her relations great pain, though they well knew the disposition of the master and mistress.

Mr

Mr ALLWORTH is a man of the best heart and the tenderest feelings I have ever known; cheerful, sensible, and obliging; lady MARGARET a woman blest with every amiable quality, and greatly distinguished for humanity, good sense, and good breeding. Judge then what such a pair must have suffered by the sickness and death of one of their dearest and most intimate friends.

MISS AUBREY was happy in a virtuous and sober education; her father is a man of strict honour and probity; her mother was a lady of distinguished piety and virtue. The last has been dead several years, and till of late, my friend held her place at table, with great dignity and approbation. A gentleman of family had some months before her death fallen in with my amiable friend; he liked her, he is a man of distinguished taste, and could not but like her—never pair seemed more to have been made for one another. There needed no time for deliberation; he therefore soon made his addresses with the approbation of her father. Every thing was settled, in a few months they were to have been married, but the gentleman's affairs obliged him first to take a journey to a distant part of the kingdom—they parted, alas! they parted, never to meet again—Thus died the amiable miss AUBREY, the soul of friendship, the joy and pride of her acquaintance. We set out in a few days for my lord ARNOLD's, with whom my brother

ther became acquainted last summer at Bath ; I believe this visit was planned chiefly for my amusement. Farewel, my JULIE, let us love our friends, that we may die in their esteem, and live in their memory. "A faithful friend is the medicine of life."

L E T T E R - XXXIII.

To the same.

WE have been a whole week here, happy in the conversation of a worthy family. My lord is a good natured facetious old man, fond of company, especially of young people, whom he loves to see happy, and would have them, within the bounds of decency, to make the most of the present moment. My lady ARNOLD is of a graver turn, rather more advanced in years, but has all the ease and good breeding of a woman of thirty. A stranger, in half a day's time, is apt to mistake this house for his home.

THE greatest order and decency is observed in this noble family, and my lord's character is so well known, that all who visit him, conform to the rules of the house: one of which is, that the public prayers of the church shall be read twice a day, at nine in the morning, and eight at night. A quarter before the hour a bell rings, that as many
of

of the servants as can be spared, may know to prepare themselves. As soon as the hour strikes, my lord and lady rise up and go with the company present into an old gothic hall, decently fitted up as a chappel. Divine service is performed by a very sensible well behaved young man, whom my lord retains as his chaplain, and who reads the prayers and lessons with grace and propriety. Is it not reasonable to think, my dear JULIE, that the regular and stated worship of God in a family must have a happy influence upon the tempers and conduct of those who attend it? a continual sense of our dependance is thereby kept up; we are often put in mind of what we owe to the divine goodness, and the frequent acknowledgement of our offences, should naturally make us ashamed to repeat them.

EVERY Sunday evening the servants are instructed in the grounds and principles of the christian religion, and the chaplain has it in special charge from my lord, to guard their minds against bigotry and superstition, and to instill into them the principles of universal love and charity. In bad weather, when the family cannot go to church, there is a sermon on the Sunday, which all in the neighbourhood are at liberty to attend. The gentleman who is at present my lord's chaplain, had the misfortune, since he came into the family, to lose the sight of an eye by the small pox; which you may

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believe must have much discouraged him. Upon his recovery, my lord had the goodness to add ten pounds a year to his salary, and also to assure him of the first living that fell in his gift. The bell rings for morning prayers—farewel, my JULIE, live and be happy.

L E T T E R XXXIV.

To the same.

IN the early part of his life, my lord visited several foreign countries, and in his travels made many acquaintances and some friends. Having seen so much of the world, and seen it with so good a judgment, his conversation is extremely instructive and agreeable. He has nothing of that national prejudice, so disgustful in many of those who have seldom been beyond the county in which they were born; but with the warmest attachment to old England, has the candour to own that there are good people and good things in other countries.

THERE is now at his house, and has been for some weeks, a venerable old man, with whom he has lived in the strictest friendship for upward of forty years. The gentleman is a bachelor, turned seventy, and has no other attendance but a single servant. I have not seen a man whose face had
more

more goodness in it, and by what I have learned since I have been here, it is a true index of his heart. He is sensible, polite, and perfectly well bred; his stature is rather above the middle size, his features strong and masculine. I think if REUBENS were alive, and to draw a finished picture of modesty and humility, the gentleman must sit to him. I could soon observe that both lord and lady ARNOLD treated him with uncommon marks of distinction, which indeed they needed not to recommend him to the notice of their other guests, as it is impossible to be half an hour in company with him without loving him. His great modesty restrains him from speaking much, but what he says is very sensible and much to the purpose. My brother is become immensely fond of him; they have had many private walks together, and I have heard, with great pleasure, that we are to have the honour of a visit before the gentleman leaves the country.

ONE forenoon, when alone with my lady ARNOLD, I could not help enquiring more particularly about this extraordinary man. "I wonder not, my lady HARRIET," said she, "that you are charmed with the good sense, the polite behaviour, and genteel appearance of this worthy man; did your ladyship know him as thoroughly as my lord and I do, I am sure you would venerate his character. I have lived a long while in the world, and

been acquainted with many people of worth, but in all my life have never fallen in with one of such an unexceptionable character. He is the son of a respectable family in North Britain, and the youngest of five brothers; all men of acknowledged worth. About the year 1710, when but sixteen years of age, he went to France, served an apprenticeship to a very respectable merchant in the city of Roan, and when his time was out, settled in business by himself. My lord was fond of that place, and some years after we married, we lived there a twelve-month. Here we became acquainted with our venerable friend; it is above forty years ago, and I can assure your ladyship that our friendship has not been for one day interrupted. The gentleman had frequently occasion to be in England, and he must have been much straitened in time if we did not see him.

ABOUT the year 1735, or 1736, if I don't mistake, the Swedish east India company was set on foot, at which time our friend, with two other Scotch gentlemen from London, went over to Sweden, and took a concern in it. In that country, and in several voyages in the company's service, he made a genteel fortune, and had the pleasure of being useful to several of his countrymen, and relations. The strictest friendship always subsisted between him and the two gentlemen who went over with him, nor did he leave Sweden till the last of them had

had died in his arms. He soon thereafter embarked for Scotland, where he has since lived among his relations, happy in every opportunity of being useful to mankind. The uncommonness of such characters, makes one set the higher value upon them." Here we were interrupted by a gentleman's coming into the room; I shall but add that I am unalterably yours.

L E T T E R XXXV.

To the same.

I HAD an agreeable walk with my lord this forenoon, when he confirmed all that my lady ARNOLD had said of the old gentleman, and added some particulars which her ladyship had omitted. "My friend," said he, "is a man of the greatest sensibility I have ever known: my wife and he were talking one day of the French wearing ruffles without shirts—"I never knew an instance of it but one," said he; "when I was apprentice, an elderly man, shabbily drest, came to the door to ask charity—the landlady observed to him, "that it was not decent for people that wore ruffles to beg;" when turning up his coat sleeve, "it is true, madam," said he, "I have ruffles, but I have not a shirt"—The poor man had formerly been in a better

ter way, I think he had been concerned in the finances."

WHILE he repeated this story, which had happened above forty years before, the tears run down his cheeks. Where ever he hath been, he hath scattered blessings around him; carefully sought out proper objects of benevolence, and in the gentlest and most secret manner supplied their necessities. Men of worth and character, in deprest circumstances, have always been the peculiar objects of his attention; he knows that such men have a delicacy and sense of honour, which would scarce suffer them to be obliged by the general run of mankind; and therefore he has often supported them in the most distant and obliging manner. I may venture to affirm, that few men have done so much good to others, and yet, madam, I am sorry to add, that few, very few, have met with more ungrateful returns. Some of those, by his money and interest, pushed forward in the world, and even raised to affluence, have convinced their acquaintance how unworthy they were of the friendship and regard of so good a man.

THE best of men must feel indignities; ingratitude must hurt the most disinterested benefactor: but in these cases, good men feel more for human nature than for themselves. I don't think my worthy friend was ever heard to complain of those who
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had used him ill, but in one case, which indeed exceeded all sufferance; it was where his own character was highly injured, and where the conduct of the ungrateful person, had nearly destroyed an innocent third party, for whom he had the sincerest regard. When he and I have been upon the subject, he would say, "It is our duty, my lord, to do all the good we can, and if we sometimes meet with unworthy returns, we must impure it to the weakness and depravity of human nature; the ungrateful person has by much the worst of it."

My friend's sentiments of religion are generous and just, and his life the best proof of his good principles. It will charm your ladyship to observe with what fervour and humility he joins in the public prayers; with what grave attention he listens to the lessons and sermon; and with what serene joy and composure of mind he bears a part in the hymns and psalms. I think no body can observe his behaviour at church without being edified by it. I never knew a man so attentive to business, set less value upon money; nor could the great losses he sustained in trade, or what he has suffered by the baseness and ingratitude of some he had obliged, ever make any alteration in his temper in that respect. When I have considered this, I have often wondered how he got forward in the world; indeed I long suspected that he never would, and have sometimes taken the liberty to caution him
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against the danger of being imposed upon by selfish and designing men.

HE would smile, and with great goodness of heart say, "there may be some danger, my lord, but a small matter will do for a single man; if I have wherewithal to keep myself, and a little occasionally to help out a friend, it is all I desire. It is of no consequence whether one dies a hundred pounds richer or poorer." I weary you, madam,—a summer's sun would rise and set before I could do justice to this uncommon character. I am happy my lord's good family have fallen in with him here, I am sure the more you know, the more you will all value him."

FAREWEL, my JULIE,—be virtuous, and be happy.

L E T T E R XXXVI.

To the same.

IN our walk, after breakfast, my lord and I met a decent looking country man, whom his lordship stopt to speak with—I went on—when my lord came up with me, he seemed much pleased. "This poor man, lady HARIET, has the misfortune to have an ailing delicate woman for his wife;

wife, and is charged with the care of a numerous family. He applied to me some months ago for a new lease of his farm, for which he knew another man had offered a large fine; he honestly told me, that he thought the farm worth the money, "but, my lord," said he, "I really have it not to give. My family are young, and as yet not much able to help me; my neighbour's are grown up, and therefore we are not upon a par."

He is a pains taking honest man, and his ancestors have possessed the farm above a hundred years; I therefore ordered a new lease to be made out for him. I now met him in his way to tell me, that last post brought him the accounts of a brother's death, by which he gets about six hundred pounds. "And now my lord," said he, "it is very reasonable I should pay the money which another offered for my farm." It is a great pleasure, madam, to know that one has obliged a worthy mind—I wished the man joy of his succession, and told him that I should perhaps double the fine when he again renewed his lease. A man of fortune cannot, I think, have a greater pleasure, than to see his tenants thriving and happy. The advanced price of all the necessaries of life, and the great odds in living, make it indeed necessary to exact some consideration on the renewal of their leases; but this should be levied with great lenity and judgement. To impose a heavy fine upon a tenant, purely because he has

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thriven upon a farm, not naturally better than that upon which another broke, or could scarce pay his rent, is in fact laying a tax upon industry, and of all others the most effectual method to prevent the improvement of the country. None of my people are afraid of getting rich, they all know it is what I wish.

I HAVE lived long enough, my lady HARIET, to see a great deal of the madness and folly of mankind, who are generally so much taken up with the poor concerns of this world, that they lose all relish for the more important concerns of the next. To add fields to fields, seems to be the only object that some men have in view. To accomplish this, no drudgery is scrupled, no fatigue thought too much; the heart-felt sighs of the poor, the groans of the oppressed, the tears of the widow and fatherless, go for nothing; money is their supreme good, and money, at all hazards, they will have. What is madness, if this be not? In a few years, madam, these fields will be no more to me, than the wilds of America now are. By the blessing of God upon the industry of my poor people, they now yield me a comfortable subsistence, even a superabundance of all good things. Why then should I grind the face of the poor, merely to enrich my successor? why neglect the duties of a man and a christian, that I may hoard up money to purchase other people's lands? will the bulk
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of the parchments in my scrutore add one jot or tittle to my happiness? I thank God, my wife and I are entirely of a mind in this matter, neither of us desires to save a shilling of our present income, neither of us desires to have a shilling added to it. I have known many estates foolishly thrown away, I have known others as foolishly improved; for surely, it is the very quintessence of folly to barter one's character and peace of mind for lands and money." These, my JULIE, are just sentiments, and worthy of a man of honour—let us thank God that there are such men still left. Farewel—love me, and be happy.

L E T T E R XXXVII.

To the same.

WE were at church yesterday, when I had the pleasure to observe that all my lord ARNOLD had said of the old gentleman's behaviour, was far short of the truth: there is a sublimity in genuine humility and true devotion which always suffers by description.

THE VICAR is a middle aged man, of a very engaging appearance; a mixture of gravity and mildness in his countenance, bespeaks the respect and attention of his audience. He has a strong mascu-

line voice, of which he has the entire command, and which he varies, with great judgment and taste, according to the nature of his subject. His language is classically correct, his periods short and well turned; his action graceful, and but just enough to show that he is affected with his subject. He reads the prayers in a grave, solemn, and very graceful manner, and pronounces every word so distinctly, that the remotest person in church cannot be at a loss to hear him. He took for his text these words of Moses, "O that they were wise! that they understood this; that they considered their latter end."——

HENCE he took occasion to point out the wisdom and great importance of consideration, even in the common concerns of life; but much more as it regards our latter end. He observed that our conduct in life is trifling or important, in just proportion to the regard we express in it for the interests of another world: "not," said he, "that the duties of religion supersede the duties which we owe to our country, to our brethren of mankind, or to our families; all these are included in the idea of true piety. We must take the necessary steps for our present subsistence and accommodation; but having secured a reasonable prospect of present good things, we ought not to indulge an insatiable desire of riches, nor give ourselves much trouble about civil distinctions, which are of no importance to

to our happiness or real character. The things of this world, abstractedly considered, are below the regard of a rational being, made for the contemplation of God's works, and qualified, in a certain degree, for the participation of his infinite happiness. Riches, and honours, and pleasures, in the dark medium through which mankind generally see them, assume a reality and importance which does not naturally belong to them. But however much they may captivate light minds, who do not attend to things future, in the eye of a good man, who coolly and seriously considers what they really are, they must be totally eclipsed by the contemplation of that glory hereafter to be revealed. When those who now wisely consider their latter end, shall shine as the stars for ever and ever; when they shall be admitted to see those things which eye hath not seen; to hear those things which ear hath not heard; and to share in that happiness which hath not entered into the heart of man to conceive. When from experience, not in hope, they shall say with the devout psalmist, "in thy presence is fulness of joy, at thy right hand are pleasures for evermore."

WHEN he came to point out the unhappy situation of those who neglect the consideration of their latter end, how tenderly, how feelingly, did he express himself!—with what strength of argument did he show the weakness of their excuses!—with what
 pathos

pathos and energy did he point out the danger of their delays!—with what endearing sweetness did he urge them to “throw off the works of darkness, and put upon them the whole armour of light?—When he address himself to those, who, in this the day of their merciful visitation, remember the things which belong to their peace; his eyes overflowed with joy, in his countenance a cheerful serenity was express—“Go on,” said he, “go on, ye favoured of the LORD, to higher, and still higher degrees of perfection; forgetting the things that are behind, press forward to the mark, for the prize of the high calling of GOD in CHRIST JESUS.

“DIFFICULTIES you lay your account with, dangers you reckon upon; but glorious is the prize you have in view; peace of mind here, and immortal happiness hereafter. The world may frown upon you—“ye are not of the world”—foolish men may count your life madness, but wisdom is justified of her children. Your own hearts will often tell you, “there is a lion in the way,”—believe them not, “greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world.” Go on in hope, go on in the firm assurance of GOD’s merciful aid; “cast not away your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.” Let not your hearts be troubled by the accidents of human life; “here we have no continuing city, but we look for one to come, whose builder and maker is GOD; here we are in the midst of death, but

but if we trust in the shadow of the ALMIGHTY, it shall not once come nigh unto us; here we may be hurt by the conversation of the wicked, but if our own be in heaven, nothing impure shall cleave unto us, when our earthly tabernacle is dissolved, we shall be received into mansions of immortal happiness.

THINK not with the foolish servant, that your LORD delayeth his coming—"faithful is he that hath promised;" let us not weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not; yet a little while, and he that shall come, will come, and will not tarry. Let us gird up our loins, let us rejoice in the hope of the glory of GOD, let us look within the vail, whither JESUS the forerunner is entered for us."—I beg the gentleman's pardon—conscious that I am unable to do him justice. What a striking effect have the words of holy scripture when judiciously interspersed in a sermon! we forget the preacher, and think we hear the sacred writers speaking in their own person. How cold and unaffecting are those compositions, where we have neither the letter nor the spirit of the gospel! —

IT is not common to repeat so much of a sermon in a private letter—What is that to you or me? may we not correspond in our own way? I was willing to recollect as much as I could of a discourse that pleased me so much, and I recollect it with the greater pleasure, that I had once the misfortune to hear

hear this sublime and affecting passage of holy writ sadly mangled by another preacher—perhaps I may entertain you with the outlines of his character in my next letter—it shall be a short one, to atone for the length of this.

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

To the same.

WHEN we got home, my lord ARNOLD asked my brother how he liked the preacher? “Extremely, my lord,” said he, “if he is as unexceptionable in his private, as in his public character, I must think your lordship very happy in a clergyman. Besides, my lord, I could not help being struck by the decent behaviour, and remarkable attention of the congregation.” “I can assure your lordship,” said my lord ARNOLD, “that the VICAR’s private character is amiable and exemplary; he is a man of real piety, good sense, and an excellent temper; very benevolent, and very hospitable. His hearers are so fond of him, that they would not wish to miss one word he says, and this accounts for their great attention. But, my lord, to do the common people justice, I have observed them generally attentive, where the preacher is a pious sensible man, and, in any tolerable degree, a master of the arts of persuasion. Where this is not
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the case, we need not be surprized at their inattention; if a clergyman be not affected with his subject, he can never affect others; if he hastily runs over the prayers of the church, hurt by the spirit of indevotion, the bulk of the congregation will soon learn to long as much as himself for the concluding prayer."

THE clergyman I pointed at in the conclusion of my last letter is, even in his exterior, very different from the VICAR—much about the same age, but of a very unpromising appearance. He has an affected solemnity in his look, to which every feature in his face gives the lie. A voice, harsh and disagreeable, much resembling the grating of a gate, whose leaves had not been unfolded for half a century; tho' he himself seems to think it musical, and by turns, tortures every note in the gamut. Now it is low as a whisper—then loud as a trumpet; and rises and falls without the least regard had to sentiment, common sense, or his subject. His language is diffusive and inaccurate, his stile turbid and pedantic; ever hunting after beauties, incapable of discovering them himself, or pointing them out to others. His periods, if such discourses may be said to have any period but one, are just one head of the discourse. His action is ungraceful, and void of all meaning. Superadd to this, the most consummate assurance, and an affectation of great

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dignity and importance, and you have a faint idea of the original I have in my eye.

You cannot conceive what a poor account he made of the excellent subject, and how little either of piety or common sense appeared in his reflexions upon it. In short, he is the greatest master in "darkening knowlege with words," of any I have ever heard. Is it not grating, my dear JULIE, to hear a man talk for half an hour, tho' with all the attention possible, one can neither be entertained nor edified by what he says?—It is certainly neither a sin nor a shame for a man to be born a blockhead, but may we not a little vary the question put to our Saviour, and ask, "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should have been made a priest? is there not range enough in the world for all such between the plough and the pulpit? or, are the qualities and talents of those who are to lead and direct others in the ways of holiness, of so mean account in the eyes of the clergy, that every dunce may be put into orders?

WOULD to GOD that those among the clergy, whose place it is to ordain others, would be pleased seriously to consider the weight and importance of the apostolic rule, "Lay hands suddenly on no man," one should think the words added to the charge, would be an effectual bar to such temerity, "neither be thou partaker of other mens sins." Who should
be

be sensible of the difficulties, the dignity, and importance of the clerical character if they are not? who should feel for the interests of piety and virtue if they do not? and upon whom can the misconduct of an indecent clergyman reflect more dishonour?—to see a general constantly drunk or asleep, who was to lead an army through an enemy's country, would shock us extremely—it must be equally painful to a considerate mind, to see an ignorant, negligent and irreligious man, intrusted with the care of souls. Farewel, my JULIE,—live and be happy.

L E T T E R XXXIX.

To the same.

WE got home yesternight, my dear JULIE, and with much regret parted with the worthy family; it was not to be done till I engaged to spend the christmases holy days with them. We very unwillingly left the good old man, tho' we are to see him in about ten days hence. You will be sorry, my JULIE, when I tell you that the good, the respectable Mr AMPHIL is no more!—you know how much I valued that worthy man, and therefore can partly conceive how much his death must affect me. He lived indeed long enough for himself, long enough to convince the world of the inesti-

mable value of such a character, but his family, his friends, his neighbours, must long regret the loss of a man whose benevolence, good sense, and social disposition, made all around him happy.

BEING a younger brother, when he settled in the world, he obtained a mortgage upon a part of the family estate, on which he built a genteel house. And tho' his fortune bore no proportion to his merit, by good oeconomy he lived in a very hospitable manner. He was a man of a cheerful temper, and of the most untainted probity and honour; but for nothing more distinguished than his love of peace. Even in his exterior, he had much the appearance of a gentleman; a pleasant countenance, a person tall and well made, and an air of dignity which always commanded respect. No wonder, therefore, that his friendship and acquaintance were courted and valued by all good men. Having lived long in the country, he was esteemed a thorough judge, in the common affairs of life, and well skilled in the happy art of accomodating differences among friends and neighbours. This indeed was the great pleasure of his life, and so just an opinion had the public of his abilities and integrity, that scarce a week past wherein some difference or other was not submitted to his determination. His discernment was so accurate, and his address so insinuating, that his decisions were generally agreeable to both parties.

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THE pleasure which the SUPREME BEING has annexed to doing good, is certainly a very great present reward ; for I have seen Mr AMPHIL as happy, after spending two or three hours in taking away a difference, as a man of a worldly temper could have possibly been by the gratification of his utmost wishes. Upon occasions of this kind, he commonly made it a rule, not to say a word upon the subject, till he had heard both parties in presence of one another. After which he would trace the matter from its origin, and, in the progression, point out where humour or prejudice had given a false colour to facts. I have often heard him say, that he had known many people express their surprise on having their prejudices and mistakes thus detected ; and that from all the observation he had been able to make, mistakes and prejudices make nine parts in ten in all the differences that plague and divide mankind.

NOR was he, in the character of a peace-maker, a blessing only to those of his own rank ; humble, affable, and easy of access, the meanest man in the country needed no recommendation to him. I have been charmed with the ease and good nature with which he conversed with people of the lowest ranks ; I have often known him rise from breakfast to go out and speak with them : nor, I think, did he ever suffer a poor man to wait for him five minutes. He would say, " these poor people must
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not be detained, their time is their all." To his tenants he was the kindest and most indulgent master, provided only that they were careful and honest; the first, he used to say, was essential to their thriving here, the last to their happiness hereafter. Over the indolent, the litigious, and those suspected of dishonesty, he kept a strict eye. He felt for the poor, and warmly supported every public measure for their decent subsistence.

You are acquainted, my JULIE, with the distresses which fell upon this worthy man, in the evening of his days; and you know with what spirit and resolution he bore up against them. If he had a fault, and alas! who has not? he was rather obstinate in an opinion he had once formed; and I know not, but upon some occasions, this may have hurt his interest. Whatever be in that, no man ever questioned his integrity, and "happy is he who condemneth not himself." The friends of the family still hope that matters may be accommodated, and a genteel reversion saved to his son, who is a very promising young gentleman. It was long ago observed, that "men know neither love nor hatred by all that is before them."—Who that saw so worthy a man struggling with difficulties, could believe that providence sets any value upon riches? who that saw how nobly he sustained his character, could think them essential to happiness, or necessary to procure respect? what beyond universal esteem, has the
highest

highest station, or the largest possessions to hope for? and this, in all the periods of a long life, Mr AMPTHIL enjoyed. I was much at his house, and owe a great deal to his friendship—how just were his sentiments of men and things!—how amiable his temper,—how exemplary his conduct!—but, my JULIE, let us not grieve as those without hope—let us rather rejoice in the prospect of that happy day, when we shall be gathered to our friends,—when we shall meet to part no more!—Farewel —.

L E T T E R XL.

To the same.

WE are just returned from a disagreeable visit, for such, in some degree, all formal visits must be. Is there not an absurdity in visiting those whom we do not esteem? what right has custom to deprive one of a day's happiness? or why should we be esteemed ill bred, if we do not return the visits of those we neither desired to see, nor wish to see again? I would not have people rudely decline a visit from those upon any kind of footing with themselves, but cannot see the necessity or propriety of returning one, but where the parties to be visited are such as we can be happy with.

MRS

MRS PURSEY has been a widow several years, is a woman of some taste, and fond of books; but the most capricious fluctuating being you can imagine. Vain to a high degree, and so elated by the possession of a moderate fortune, that she seems to look upon most of her acquaintance as beings naturally inferior to her. When in good humour, she knows how to make herself agreeable enough, but if any thing has chagrined her, happy the person who keeps out of her way. If one sees her in that mood, the grossest affronts, the most mortifying neglects must be put up with, or you give her up for ever; this, perhaps, would to many of her acquaintances, be no great sacrifice; but few chuse either to expose a Lady's weakness, or by quarrelling, to make themselves the subject of conversation.

If the smallest punctilio in behaviour is omitted, she bristles immediately; if one of the first quality in the country calls upon her, without having formally announced a visit, ten to one if he sees her; and if he does, he shall soon perceive how the lady resents such rudeness. I could give you several diverting instances of this, but shall only mention one. A gentleman who had been long intimate with her husband, on his return from a tour of visits, happened to call in an evening, with an intention to sleep there. Mr PURSEY was not at home—the gentleman was shown into a room, where

where he waited a full half hour before my lady made her appearance; when she did, her countenance was clouded, and by a thousand indications, she quickly convinced the stranger that he was an unwelcome guest.

HE deliberated with himself whether to be gone, or to spend the evening very disagreeably, and determined upon the first. He stepped to the door, desired his servant to get ready the horses, and soon after wished my lady goodnight—"You do not mean to leave this house to night sir,"—when I came here, madam, I did not, but I find I have interrupted you, and therefore must be gone. "interrupted me sir!—I must beg you to explain yourself?"—"your own conduct, madam, needs no explanation and will sufficiently explain mine"—"my conduct, sir!"—"in this kind of altercation, madam, we should never have done—I thought I was upon such terms with your husband, that I might have called at his house morning or evening; I imagined his friends had been yours, but find I have been mistaken. As my friend's wife, madam, I respect you, but cannot submit to the tax your caprice would impose upon me. Some others might have borne a reception to which I am much a stranger; I cannot think such mean complaisance any part of good manners"—so saying he left the room.

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MRS

Mrs PURSEY threw herself into an easy chair, and burst into a torrent of passion—her woman was alarmed, and came into the room—she abused the poor girl—she railed at the gentleman, and cried with perfect vexation. Scarce was the storm settled in a week. My sister and this lady have lived several years in the same neighbourhood, and been in the course of seeing one another once or twice a year, I believe, without a single grain of esteem on either side. We found her in one of her best humours, but I hate ceremony, and with this kind of people one must be so much upon their guard, that it totally spoils the relish of conversation. We had a great deal of it however, at least my brother and she had; if I can recollect the particulars, I shall not be at a loss for subject for six weeks to come. Farewel, my JULIE,—love me, and be happy.

L E T T E R XLI.

To the same.

AFTER dinner the discourse turned upon books, when Mrs PURSEY observed that the press had of late become very barren of good productions; “which,” said she, “is the more extraordinary, when one considers that authors, never had a better time of it; never were such prices paid

paid for manuscripts; never were good writers more esteemed and caressed by people of rank; and never did booksellers thrive more by publishing. It is not now as in the days of CHARLES the second, when the paradise lost brought MILTON but fifteen pounds; 'tis not now as when DRYDEN had scarce bread to eat, and when OTWAY was suffered to starve."

"It must be owned, madam," said my brother, "that the press annually pours forth a number of mean productions, but I am afraid the public is chargeable with part of the guilt; the generality both of writers and publishers will consider what is most likely to sell; book-making, upon the whole, is not a profitable branch, for I have been assured by those who had great opportunities of knowing, that at least seven out of ten of the new books and pamphlets published, do not pay for paper and print. In all these cases, if any copy money has been paid, it is just so much clear loss to the publisher. But still, madam, there are every year published things of general utility to mankind; and some of these, I am sorry to observe, notwithstanding the most favourable character from those who look into them, are suffered to lie as lumber in the bookseller's shop, while he or his author are money out of pocket. I could give instances of this, were it necessary."

It is with authors, madam, as with men in all other professions, a modest man has generally the worst chance of succeeding. When one writes from vanity and a fond desire of praise, that vanity will prompt him to take every precaution to insure success; nor will he be over delicate in the choice of the means. When one writes purely from mercenary views, he will endeavour to please by falling in with the taste of the public. By this he will be directed in the choice of his subject, and to this he will chiefly attend in the execution of it. He will study the manufacture of title pages, he will imitate his brother quacks in puffing away his wares; and if no body else can discover great faults, or striking beauties in his work, he will resume the pen, and to attain the great end he originally had in view, with equal indifference magnify or defame his own lucubrations.

But the man who is determined to write by a general benevolence to the human race, and the pleasure he feels in endeavouring to promote the interests of virtue and society, is much above these arts; conscious of a good intention, he leaves his work to make its own way; aware of the importance of his subject, he promises little, and is sorry if he is not able to accomplish all he intended. He will no farther fall in with the taste of the times than he finds it founded in virtue and common sense; and tho' he will not rudely attack the reigning follies,

follies, neither will he meanly flatter them. He looks upon morality and religion as the props of society, and would sooner die than attempt to undermine them. His situation in life may be such, that the patronage of men of rank, or the profits of his writings would be very material to him; but no external circumstance is of any weight when put in balance with the peace of his own mind. I imagine, madam, that men of this character are not uncommon, and I cannot doubt of their being often suffered to live in obscurity, and to die neglected. Were it not for the pleasure of a good conscience, and the probability of more candid returns from posterity, I think such men would have little to boast of,

I ADMIT, madam, that high prices have been paid for some manuscripts, and that an author of established character may stamp almost what value he pleases upon his work; here the opinion of the public is paid for, as well as the merit of the writer. But when we consider how hard a matter it is to establish a character for literary merit, and to the lot of how few extraordinary talents fall, we must be sensible that the success of these few can operate but weakly as a stimulus upon the minds of other writers. I rejoice in the success of every man of genius, and think the public, by encouraging merit, erects a monument to its own good taste and discernment. But were it more uniformly to countenance

nance every modest attempt to be useful, and to treat with just contempt, every thing of a bad or suspicious tendency, we could have no reason to doubt of the happy consequences.

But when a man has wrote, and, perhaps, at his own expence, published, a thing of acknowledged general importance to the best interests of society, must it not greatly discourage any future attempts of that kind, if besides his labour, which indeed a benevolent mind will scarce throw into the account, he finds himself money out of pocket? must it not hurt him to observe, that the sorry productions of vice and ignorance, though reprobated by the public judgement, are more attended to? that his work is neglected, while things merely calculated for the amusement of a day, which perhaps inflame and mislead the passions, are eagerly bought up?"—
This letter is already too long—farewel, my JULIE.

LETTER XLII.

To the same.

THE conversation went on—"I believe, madam, that good writers, who support a decent character, are, when personally known to them, generally esteemed and countenanced by people

people of rank ; but I imagine, many who deserved well of the public, have had but little of this to boast of. True merit is always accompanied with a large share of modesty, and men of that temper are of all others the most backward to solicit favours. Upon some occasions they may have solicited them, and we cannot doubt but they have been often disappointed. Few, madam, very few consider, how hardly a generous mind puts up with neglects, where, with some shew of reason, it hoped for patronage and protection.

As to the booksellers, madam, though several of them have made fortunes, and some of them still get forward in the world, if my information be just, it is more by reprinting the works of dead authors, than by publishing the productions of the living. A new work now and then answers, but I imagine a bookseller would deal on a very precarious footing who chose solely to depend upon new things. In this case his writers had need to be great adepts in politics and scandal. The low price paid for the *Paradise Lost*, is a hackneyed reproach upon the booksellers, but I have ever thought it a very unjust one: MILTON's political character was well known, and his principles, at that period, in great disrepute; the merit of his work was very little known, and those who had discernment enough to perceive its beauties, through the mist of prejudice, would be cautious.

cautious of extoling the production of a man so unpopular.

THE taste of that dissipated reign was altogether for loose plays, or still looser poems; the nation which had been just emancipated from the insupportable yoke of tyranny in the state, and despotism in the church, gave the rein to pleasure, and like those who have long fasted, could scarce be persuaded that there was danger in excess. Superadded to all this, political disputes run so high, that people had neither leisure, nor relish for works of a serious nature. In spite of the greatest merit which any modern production can boast, I will venture to say, that had not Mr ADDISON, and other great men, about the beginning of this century, pointed out the beauties of that immortal poem, and made it unfashionable not to have read it, I say, but for this, it had still lain as lumber in the booksellers garrets."

MRS PURSEY, who, I imagine, did not think of coming to such close quarters, made little reply, farther than observing, that as authors generally set a high value on themselves, they were apt to charge those with neglecting them who seemed in any respect to under-rate their merit, "The public, said she, has an unquestionable right to judge of authors and their works, and if people of rank did not keep the general run of writers at a due distance,

distance, their vanity would become quite insupportable."

I SHALL not now enter upon my brother's reply, it would swell my letter to an immoderate length.—Farewel.

LETTER XLIII.

To the same.

"YOU will pardon me, madam," said my brother, "if I observe, that the writers I have had the pleasure to be acquainted with, are in general, as free of vanity, and in as little danger of setting an overvalue on themselves, as any other set of men. Nor can I see how superior knowledge and abilities should expose men to the danger or imputation of vanity. Superficial people, in all professions, are vain; from thinking too often of the little they know, and too seldom of the great deal of which they are ignorant.

No question, the public has a right to judge of authors and their works; or in other words, all men have a right to judge for themselves. But this judgement should always be directed by the principles of equity and common sense: people of rank may chuse whom they will honour with their regards;

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but I cannot see the propriety of associating with men upon the footing of literary merit, and yet exacting of them a degree of servile complaisance to which no generous mind can submit. To such men the black broth of Sparta have a higher relish, than all the delicacies at PHILIP's table. For my own share, madam, I would not chuse to keep company with a man who had not the spirit, with decency and good manners, to correct me when I mistook an argument. If he only echoes what I say, I can neither be entertained nor profited by his conversation: he may blow up my pride and vanity, but can neither correct my judgement, nor improve my taste." "My lord," said Mrs PURSEY, "the gentlemen of the quill are extremely obliged to you; did they know how much, I durst venture to insure your lordship of half a dozen dedications within the year." "Then, madam, you allow writers one merit, that of being grateful." "Certainly, my lord, to those who fight their battles."—Here a different subject was introduced.

I HAVE often wondered, my dear JULIE, how people of this lady's turn of mind could pass their time; rarely upon good terms with themselves or others, and variable as the moon. Their dependants must bear with them; those who have an interest to serve by it may put up with their bad humours; they may have confidants, but can have no friends; and without friendship, what is human life?

life?—a state of bare existence, to eat, to drink, and to sleep; to repeat the same dull round from day to day, without relish, and without hope. If men and women were made for society, and I envy not that person's disposition who doubts of it, then surely we ought to cultivate those tempers which make us mutually agreeable. An overweening conceit of our own persons or accomplishments, or a foolish pride in possessing a fortune to which perhaps we succeeded without any merit of our own, and only by the demerit of others, betrays great weakness of mind, and in place of drawing respect upon us, unavoidably sinks us in the esteem of every sensible person.

OUR own servants, even the meanest, the most ignorant of the human race, know, that with them we are subjected to the common accidents of humanity; they know that like them we are accountable beings, who in a future state will be judged by the same rule. Shall we therefore despise our MAKER, by reproaching his works? GOD forbid! let us rather be thankful to that good providence to which we owe our distinction and affluence. Forgive me, my dear JULIE, forgive me, ye generous and humane, when I repeat the vile expression of a woman of some rank, but a contemptible understanding—pointing to a poor distressed human being, “It grieves me to the soul,” said she, “that such a wretch should in another world be upon a footing

with people of fortune." An expression of which it is hard to say whether the folly or the impiety be greatest.

ALAS! my JULIE, that folly and caprice should so pervert the human understanding,—to talk of another world, and in the same breath to utter so vile a sentiment, is really astonishing. How much more pious, how much more prudent would it have been in this weak woman to have said, "this miserable being is of the same nature with myself, though our lots in this world are very different. Let me not despise her; GOD, who feedeth the ravens, takes care of her. Let me rather, by relieving her wants, endeavour to recommend myself to the common parent of the universe, who is good unto all, and whose tender mercies are over all his works."

By this conduct she would have enjoyed a present satisfaction, infinitely outweighing the small matter that would have made the poor woman happy, and in the elegant phrase of the apostle, "laid up for herself a good fund against the time to come." Nothing is more agreeable in a friend or acquaintance, than equanimity of temper; a person ruffled by every accident, cheerful this hour, sullen the next, one thing to day, another to morrow, is only fit to live in a desert, where wild beasts and howling winds cannot be hurt by his humours.

Farewel,

Farewel, my JULIE, be yourself at all times, and be respected.

L E T T E R XLIV.

To the same.

WE, for some days past, have had the honour of the venerable old man's company, who is certainly a very uncommon character. He lives in the world as if he were incorruptible by its vices and follies; and yet has nothing of that austere gravity, which generally throws a damp upon the spirits of young people. He freely enters into all conversations, and in all he is entertaining and agreeable. Besides great knowledge of the world, he seems to be well acquainted with the works of the most eminent writers both of the English and French nations; and gives a very sensible modest account of the different countries he has seen. There is so much candour and simplicity, and such an air of truth in whatever he says, that one cannot help being extremely attentive.

He is fond of agriculture and improvements, as you know my brother has long been; both are early risers, both great walkers, and I believe there is not a field in the farm which they have not been over. The countess and he are hand and glove; she

she cannot but be pleased to see a living example of all those virtues which she venerates. I begin to wish we had not fallen in with the gentleman, as I know not how we shall be able to live without him. We had a strong and pleasing proof of his sensibility and great goodness of heart, since he has been here. A poor man in the neighbourhood had the misfortune to have his house burnt down; by which accident he lost almost every article of his household furniture. We were at breakfast when we heard the dismal accounts. The gentleman was silent—set down his cup—and in a moment the tears run down his venerable cheeks. He turned away his face, pulled out his handkerchief, and modestly endeavoured to conceal a circumstance which did him so much honour. “It is a hard case,” said he, “and as it may be the case of great numbers, one can’t help being affected with it,”

How much is one improved by such an example?—no man feels more for the poor, no man paints their distresses in more glowing colours, than our friend the Doctor, and yet, upon my honour, I felt my heart more softened by the example of this worthy man’s sensibility, than by any sermon I had ever heard upon the subject. He enquired what family the poor man had, and was told he had five children, the eldest not eight years of age. “Poor man!” said he, “I am happy to know that he lives in so good a neighbourhood.” Was

not

not this, my JULIE, a very genteel compliment to the family? As my brother and he walked in the garden after breakfast, "My lord," said he, "we have often heard of proposals for laying a tax upon bachelors; if ever such a tax should take place, I think the great object of it should be the support and education of indigent children, 'tis but reasonable that those who do not supply the state with subjects themselves, should assist those who do.

WILL your lordship therefore give me leave to put this trifle into your hands, as a small matter towards the relief of the poor man's family."

"It is a great deal too much, sir,—I dare say these five guineas would nearly indemnify all his loss."

"Well, my lord, I can spare the money, and the good wishes of a poor family cannot hurt an old man." Was ever a charity bestowed with a better grace?—with such a disposition, what a blessing is money? without it, how great a curse?—Farewel, my JULIE,—be humane, and be happy.

L E T T E R XLV.

To the same.

I AM quite low spirited—so are all this family; the venerable old man left us this morning; never friends parted with more regret. My brother

ther ordered his carriage, and insisted upon giving him the convey for a few miles, which just compliment he was at much pains to evade. He has engaged to correspond with us, and from the correspondence of so worthy a man, we promise ourselves much satisfaction. By an odd accident, the gentleman was not two hours gone, when we had a visit from one in this neighbourhood, a perfect contrast to him; the sole business of whose life it has been to amass money. In the early part of his life he lived many years abroad, where he made a considerable fortune, and had opportunities to have made a much larger one; but the littleness of his mind was an effectual bar to extensive dealing.

THE very methods it put him upon, frequently brought him to the brink of ruin: when he had purchased a large quantity of goods, he would frequently keep them up, in hopes of a higher price, till they were either damaged, or the mercat otherways supplied. When he returned to his native country, he purchased an estate in the neighbourhood of a populous village, as he well knew the value of a mercat. The tenants were turned off, and the lands taken into his own management—he saw every thing done with his own eyes—the very garbage of the farm was sent to mereat. It was his first care to build large granaries, for hoarding up corn when at a medium, or low price, that he might sell it out when dear. By this, and every other

other method that avarice could devise, he tripled the value of his lands. What end has all this answered to the miserable being?—has he ever made a friend? has he the consolation to reflect upon one good and generous action, in the course of a long life?—what has he got but food and raiment? and both these he might have had with a good character, and much less drudgery and fatigue. What have been his enjoyments? backward springs, rainy harvests, and severe winters—the miseries of mankind. Will the recollection of these cheer his soul in the hour of distress? will they smooth the brow of death, and take from the horrors of the grave?

My brother, who thoroughly knows the man, introduced the story of the poor family's loss by fire; and told him how a meer stranger had felt for them, how generously he had relieved them. "I cannot doubt, sir," said he, "but you, who live in the neighbourhood, and can well spare the money, will contribute at least an equal sum. "Five guineas, my lord!—five guineas is enough to make a poor man rich. One must run many hazards, and have a deal of trouble in making that sum, as the times go. Mercats are so precarious, servants wages so high, and the expence of living so much increased, that one has much ado to live. I never was a friend to this kind of charity, to say no worse, it may tempt poor people to be careless, if their losses are thus to be made up by others. Besides, my
S lord,

lord, there are so many common beggars now a going, that one cannot give to the half of them." "Sir," said my brother, "with common beggars, which are a generation I like not, twenty shillings in halfpence will go a great way. But I urge not the matter, every man is the best judge what he can spare in charity; the poor will always be provided for."

DON'T you wonder, my JULIE, that men of this character have the assurance to come into the company of decent people? the fact is, they do not see their own character in the true light; I am afraid some others have their reasons for winking at it. While many who see them in their true colours, are obliged to be civil to them on account of their connexion with more respectable people. A little more of this worthy character in my next—in the mean time farewell.

L E T T E R XLVI.

To the same.

THE most cautious are not always secure; about seven years ago, the person who was the subject of my last letter, was fairly caught in his own trap. In consequence of great rains in harvest, wheat rose from twenty-seven to forty-six shillings

shillings the quarter. For two or three years before it had been cheap, so that by purchase and from his own estate, he had about five hundred quarters upon hand; which, though of several years growth, and some of it but of a middling quality, he could have sold, at an average, for forty-three shillings. His best friends were urgent that he should sell, but he would not so much as ask a price: he assured them that wheat would rise to three pounds the quarter, at least. Grain of different kinds was poured in from all quarters, the markets began to fall; he was once more urged to sell. He would not hear of it—"Foreigners would soon see the folly of emptying their granaries to supply strangers, or the continued demand would soon make them raise the price—it was a clear point that GOD ALMIGHTY meant to punish an ungrateful people with cleanness of teeth; and as the importers of grain were counteracting the designs of providence, they could not hope success—a few ships sent to the bottom would show them their folly, and make them look out for other articles of trade."

THESE pious and prudent conjectures appeared however to have been ill founded: the importation continued, a mild winter and fine spring ensued, and by the end of April the best wheat was sold at thirty shillings; his had suffered so much by keeping, that he was glad to sell it at twenty-two.

Who, my dear JULIE, that has brown bread to eat, would envy this man's enjoyments? If we are surprized to see men who have already more money than they have spirit to spend, sweating and toiling, and denying themselves every comfort of life, that they may add to their heap, we must be still more astonished to see poor people, whose gettings, one should think, are scarce sufficient to keep soul and body together, denying themselves the pittance of food and raiment within their reach, to save a trifle which can never be of any consequence to themselves or others. Take a remarkable instance that this is sometimes the case.

A POOR creature in the city of Dublin went about as a chair-woman, and had scarce rags to cover her; she was taken suddenly ill of a cholic in a lady's kitchen, so ill, that she could not be removed from the place. A physician was sent for, but nothing prescribed gave her the least relief. From the moment she was seized, she graspt the top of her pettycoat in one of her hands, and when a servant would have taken it off to put her to bed she held it fast, and cried out when they attempted to remove her hand. They let her alone; she seemed happy. She was a Roman-catholic, and begged that a priest might be sent for—he came, saw the woman dying, and was to administer the sacrament of extreme unction—there was a necessity of removing the pettycoat, which she still held

held fast, and had huddled up to that part of her body which was to have been anointed. She was desired to quit her hold, but was silent—none who stood by attempted to remove her hand—she cried out as before, and seemed in the utmost distress—they let her alone, and in a few hours she died. When her corps was laid out, the petticoat was taken off and thrown upon the floor—something rattled; and in that part which the poor wretch had held so fast, that nothing less than death could tear it from her gripe, were carefully sewed up a few pounds in gold and silver. I had the story from a lady of unquestionable veracity, who was present upon the spot.

STRANGE infatuation! unaccountable folly!—
 Let us, my dear JULIE, with unsuspecting confidence, depend upon that GOOD BEING who feeds the ravens, and cloathes the lilies of the field. Let us enjoy the blessings he bestows with moderation and gratitude; and if we would taste them with the highest relish, let us, in our measure and degree, imitate our heavenly FATHER, who maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. Thus shall we consult our own true interest, which is inseparably connected with our duty. Farewel.

LET

L E T T E R XLVII.

To the same.

IS it possible, my JULIE, that Mr HEMMING can be so tyrannical!—Why would he constrain the poor girl to act a part which her heart cannot approve? is it not paying a price too high for the food and raiment he has hitherto afforded her, if now that she is come to the time of life, when she may hope some rational enjoyment of her being, she must, to oblige her father, throw herself away upon an unworthy object? can a woman who has had a genteel education, and seen good company, be easily persuaded, that a large fortune will make up for a man's deficiencies in person and character?

MR HEMMING, who is a man of sense, must despise the wretch whom he intends for his son-in-law, in every other view but that of a man of fortune; is it enough that his daughter regard him only in that light? If he knows, as he certainly must know, that nothing beyond a competency is essential to happiness, how can he believe a superabundance of money and lands, which always bring an additional weight of trouble and anxiety along with them, a reasonable foundation for a preference,

ence, where all things else are equal? but when, as in the present case, the persons, the accomplishments, and the characters of the men, are so widely different, it is astonishing how the single article of a larger fortune should have any weight with him.

MR ALTREE has a genteel person, a decent fortune, and an excellent character; is much about the lady's own age, and well received in all companies. Happy in every opportunity of doing good, and never thinking that he has done enough; if he ever wished for more money or influence, it was only that he might be more useful to mankind. Mr GRIPELY has three times Mr ALTREE's fortune, and every year makes new purchases; but he denies that there is any such principle as benevolence in human nature, and holds it as a maxim, that a wise man should, in all cases, make the most of his money and influence. He laughs at those who pretend to feel for others, and thinks them fair game for those blest with superior talents. He is at least twenty years older than Mr ALTREE, and for his sordid disposition, generally despised and avoided.

WHAT has such a wretch to do with a woman of sense and breeding? could she ever fall in with his tempers? could he be happy in the society of an angel? Strange as it may appear, my JULIE, an involuntary regard for excellence sometimes betrays itself

itself in the basest minds; they affect the society of people, whose conduct and principles are a standing reproach to their own. I know not how we shall account for this, but by supposing, that conscious of the turpitude of their own conduct, they cannot bear to have it constantly reflected. I am happy to hear that miss HEMMING is determined to stand out, and hope her father will soon see the folly and absurdity of his conduct. If he puts himself but five minutes in her place, he must see the matter in a very different light. Would parents, my dear JULIE, avail themselves of the examples and misfortunes of others, a great deal of family distress might be prevented. Why do we read the transactions of past times? why are we so fond of biography? not surely as matters of mere amusement, but as containing facts, which attended to, and properly digested, may serve to direct us in the conduct of our lives. I would pardon, or to speak with more propriety, I would pity a man incapable of reflexion, though he made his own arbitrary will, in all cases, the sole rule of his conduct; but one cannot so easily excuse a man of sense who behaves in this manner.

INNUMERABLE instances occur, both in history and our own observation, of the distresses brought upon families and individuals, by the arbitrary and interested conduct of parents, in regard to the marriage of their children. I have met with few that
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affected me more, than one, the subject of a little manuscript, which I copied at my lord ARNOLD's. I knew it would distress you, and therefore said nothing of it; but now that I have mentioned it, I shall transcribe the whole, though you must not expect it all at once. Farewel, my JULIE,—live, and be happy.

L E T T E R XLVIII.

To the same.

THE little manuscript, mentioned in my last, begins thus—"Doctor TERRENE, a clergyman in the west of England, had two good livings in the church, and a land estate of three hundred pounds a year. His father had been the favourite steward of a prime minister, the DOCTOR his domestic chaplain. When he settled in the world, he married a woman of some family, who brought him two thousand pounds; and in a few years thereafter his father died, when he succeeded to his estate. Every acquisition but inflamed his desires for more. He levied his tithes with a severe hand, he was constantly upon the watch for convenient purchases, and in all his transactions fully demonstrated that mammon was the idol to which he bowed. People in a strait were never at a loss for money, his purse was ever open to the necessitous; but avarice, not
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humanity,

humanity, held the strings. He had a great tenderness for young men of spirit, kept in by severe fathers, and frequently run some risk in serving them. When it could be done, he chose to lend at short terms, and the interest exacted by pawn-brokers is moderate, compared to the advantages he daily took of those he obliged.

HIS father, though not a man of the most unexceptionable character, saw, and disapproved of his son's sordid disposition. He foresaw the excesses into which it would lead him, and seriously cautioned him to guard against them. He had the mortification however to find his advice disregarded, and therefore, partly as a *quietus* to his own conscience, and partly to save his son from the reproach the trust would bring upon him, about a year before his death he gave all his tenants long leases of their farms, at a moderate rate. Thus the good DOCTOR was deprived of a pleasure which he devoutly wished for, that of screwing up his lands to the highest pitch. He endeavoured to reduce several of the leases upon pretended informalities, and undue advantages taken of an old man, but in this he had no success. He was a man of a grave deportment, and very regular life; rarely from home, but upon business, and exemplary in the œconomy of his family. He prayed for the poor, as in duty bound, he warmly recommended them to the benevolent regards

gards of others, but, for his own share, chuse to part with as little as possible.

THE DOCTOR had two sons and a daughter; and thankful he was that he had no more: the cloathing and education of these he found a heavy charge. He made their mother begin them at the horn book, and when she had broke them a little in the English, he saved the expence of a grammar-school education, by teaching the boys the elements of the Latin and Greek languages at home. When he sent the eldest to Cambridge, he kept him in the cheapest and most penurious way that he possibly could. He pushed the lad forward as fast as possible, and made him enter early into orders, that he might supply the place of a curate in one of his livings. With this saving view a poor man was turned out, who had a wife and six children, and who had served the cure, with reputation, for twelve years. As the living did not exceed a hundred and eighty pounds, and as the DOCTOR had the trouble of reckoning with the parishioners, besides preaching once a year, when he came to collect his dues, twenty pounds were thought a very handsome allowance to the curate. To his son, though a young man, he had the goodness to allow the same stipend; though not without observing, how much money he might save annually, of a sum that had decently kept a whole family.

His youngest son he bred a surgeon, and when his time was out, sent him a voyage to the coast of Guinea, which was rather a cheaper education than sending him to France. He had never been at sea before, and was indisposed during most of the passage; he was attacked with a fever two days after the ship got to her port, and struggled against the disease, and the sultry heat of the climate for four days more. The Doctor was much affected with the accounts of the young man's death, and the more so, that the wages due to him were by no means equal to the expence of his outrig. His only consolation was that he would cost no more, and that he could not have buried him so cheap at home. His eldest, and now only surviving son, was a young man of an amiable disposition, very assiduous in the duties of his office, and happy in every opportunity of doing good. Indeed he had but little in his power, for of the twenty pounds paid him annually for the curacy, his father stopt ten, as a small acknowledgement for his board and the keeping of his horse. For this salary the young gentleman had to ride, out and in, six miles every Sunday in the year." This, if you please, you may call the first chapter of the history of DOCTOR TERRENE. Farewel.

L E T.

L E T T E R XLIX.

To the same.

MRS BYFIELD, a widow lady in the parish where Mr TERRENE served the cure, had an only daughter, an amiable woman, but whose only fortune was her virtue, and three hundred pounds. At this lady's house, the young gentleman often visited, and soon became fond of her lovely daughter; his modesty, piety, and good sense, so strongly recommended him to the esteem of the lady, and the affection and good-will of her daughter, that both were unhappy, if, by any accident, they were for a whole week deprived of his company. Well aware of his father's temper and disposition, he durst not propose marriage, as he knew the lady's small fortune would be an insuperable objection. But as a real passion is ever accompanied with some degree of jealousy, fearing that some other might step between him and happiness, after having often indirectly insinuated something of his unfortunate situation, he one day had the courage fully to open his mind. "My dear miss BYFIELD," said he, "when I reflect upon the many agreeable hours we have spent together, I cannot help rejoicing in the happiness of being acquainted with you;

you ; but when, on the other hand, I consider my own situation in life, and my father's unfortunate attachment to the world, I am strongly tempted to conclude, that it had been better for me if I had never seen you.

I KNOW not, madam, if I have the happiness to be regarded by you in any other light, but that of an agreeable acquaintance ; further than this I dare not hope, I even blush to claim so much——But O miss BYFIELD !—there is something infinitely beyond that, to which my soul aspires, but which I know not how to express——suspect me not of a design to flatter——suspect me not of uttering a sentiment which my heart does not feel ; you have been long dear to me, and nothing in this world could make me so happy as to hope the pleasure of one day calling you mine. Generous minds are above reserve, tell me, my dear miss BYFIELD, tell me, is my happiness indifferent to you ?” “ No, Mr TERRENE,” said the amiable woman, “ that it can never be ; though when I consider your situation and my own, I could almost wish that it were. Though you never before, in express terms, mentioned your regard for me, you have by a thousand obliging indications convinced me of it. I am not blind to so much merit, I am not insensible of the honour you do me ; but as I can but too well foresee the consequences of your acknowledging a partiality for one whose fortune is so disproportioned to
your

your future views, I must beg you to stifle a passion, the bare suspicion of which might undo you."

I repeat not what further past between this amiable pair, suffice it to say, that they came under the most solemn engagements to one another, and mutually agreed to conceal their intentions from all, but the lady's mother, till a favourable opportunity should offer of disclosing them.

MR TERRENE'S being so frequently at the lady's house, gave just ground, however, to the neighbourhood to suspect, that her daughter was the loadstone which attracted him. A marriage, as is common in such cases, was talked of, and the report soon reached the ears of doctor TERRENE, who though he had not the soul to part with a shilling at present, knew that in the event of his death, the young man would succeed to his fortune. The marriage of the young gentleman was an event, which, in any case, the DOCTOR rather feared than wished, as he foresaw the impossibility of his settling in the world, without being made, in some degree, independent. He had often revolved the matter in his own mind, and in case his son should shew any inclination to marry, the DOCTOR had his eye upon a lady in the neighbourhood, rather past the prime of life, who had lately succeeded to a fortune of three thousand pounds, by the death of an aunt; but, who at the same time, was so homely in her person, such a termagant,
and

and of so sordid a turn of mind, that no man had made up to her. The Doctor therefore took the first opportunity of having a private conversation with his son upon the subject of marriage—but it is too long for me to enter upon now—Farewel, my JULIE,—love me, and be happy.

L E T T E R L.

To the same.

“**I** DID imagine, JAMES,” said he, “that it was time enough for you to think of marrying.”—
 —“Of marrying, sir.”—“Yes, sir, of marrying; although you have not been pleased to make me of your council, your intentions are no secret to me.”—“Upon my word, sir, I have no present intention of marrying; I know not how I should, without your knowledge and consent, as without your assistance I could not support the expence of a family.”—“That, JAMES, is a very material circumstance. It is natural for me to wish you settled in the world, as you are now my only son, and will succeed to the little I have; but, JAMES, marriage is a serious affair, a very serious affair, and leads one into great and unavoidable expence; this expence a prudent man always foresees and provides against.”

GIVE

“ Give me leave, sir, to repeat it, that I have no intention of marrying.”—“ I think then you are rather too often at Mrs BYFIELD’S house—are you not fond of her daughter ?”—“ I acknowlege, sir, that I think very well of the young lady, as I believe every body does who has the pleasure of her acquaintance.” “ The gentlewoman is well spoke of—but JAMES, do you think it is for one of your views, to make up to a girl who has but a few hundred pounds, and even that trifle not till her mother’s death ?”—“ Long may you enjoy your fortune, sir, I hope I shall never do any thing to reproach you.” “ To come a little closer to the point, JAMES, you must either give up with that family, or with me.” “ It is a hard alternative,—what have I done, sir, that you would debar me from the satisfaction of visiting any decent family in my parish ?”—“ Your parish, JAMES !—you are only a tenant at will in that parish ?”—“ Very true, sir, I owe the curacy to your goodness.”—“ You do, JAMES, and only hold it upon your good behaviour. Be free with me, as a son should be with his father,—if you really are inclinable to marry, though it is rather too early in life, I mean not to hinder you—to convince you of my paternal regard, I have, after mature deliberation, fixed upon a suitable match for you.”

“ I AM, upon all occasions, infinitely obliged to you, sir, but let me beg you to be tender in proposing

posing any thing that may not be in my power to comply with." "That, JAMES, is a polite way of telling me before-hand, that you will just do what you please."—"I intreat, sir, that you may not put so harsh a construction on my words." "You shall explain your own meaning—perhaps you can guess the lady I have in my eye; you know miss WITTERGIL is a very decent woman, a great oeconomist, and has a fortune even superior to that I had with your mother."—"I am persuaded, sir, that miss WITTERGIL sets too high a value upon her person and fortune to bestow them upon a poor curate with twenty pounds a year." "As to that, JAMES, I imagine both the lady and her friends would have due regard to your future views—Besides, should the marriage take effect, I will make your curacy fifty pounds, which, with the lady's own fortune, would in the mean time be more than a competent living. I think you can have no objections to her."

"PARDON me, sir, if I say, that I have a great many, which may all be resolved into this one, that I have not a single grain of esteem for her."

"Perhaps, JAMES, you would find your account in learning to esteem those whom I esteem." "I would always wish to do it, sir, but you need not be told, that affection and esteem are involuntary."

"I find, JAMES, it is to no purpose to argue with you; let me, however, intreat you, for your own
fake,

take to reason the matter with yourself, and to think coolly of the consequences of incurring a father's displeasure. I wont take you at a disadvantage—to morrow after breakfast we will talk further of the affair."—This furnishes me with a very convenient break.—Farewel.

L E T T E R L I.

To the same.

"WELL, JAMES, I hope you have considered the matter we were upon yesternight with the attention it deserves." "I have, sir, but am sorry to tell you, that the more I consider it, I find it the more impossible to fall in with your sentiments." "Talk not to me, JAMES, of sorrow and impossibilities, I am too old to be put off with fine phrases—I know what is due from a son to his father, and therefore lay my commands upon you to visit miss WITTERGIL to morrow in the quality of a suiter. I, myself, will call upon her brother this afternoon, to pave your way."

"I BEG that you may not, sir."—"Do you presume then to disobey my positive command?"—"Let me conjure you, sir, by the tenderness of a parent, not to expose me to your wrath—let me conjure you by the sacred ties of religion, not to lay me

under the fatal necessity of offending my father, or wounding my own conscience."—"Your conscience, JAMES, how comes conscience to be concerned in the matter?"—"Can I, sir, with a good conscience, propose marriage to a woman, whom I respect less than, perhaps, any of her sex? can I, who am bound, in God's awful name, to adjure others to tell the truth, bely my own heart, and call upon heaven to witness deliberate perjury? God forbid! miss WITTERGIL I cannot possibly love, as a man should love the woman he marries, and therefore I dare not deceive either you or her by pretending it."

"I HALF suspect, JAMES, that your notions of love are more founded in modern romance than in your bible." "I hope, sir, I have a sincere love and good-will to all mankind." "You said just now that you could not love miss WITTERGIL as a man should love his wife—I like not these nice distinctions—we are taught to love every body as ourselves, and I don't see the necessity of loving any body better—I insist upon it, that a woman with her fortune, possess but of half her good qualities, would deserve the esteem of a wise and prudent man." "I am sure, sir, it cannot hurt me in the esteem of a minister of the gospel, to own that a woman's character, and mental qualities, weigh much more with me than her fortune. It becomes not me, sir, to correct your sentiments, but you know who hath said, that "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance

ance of the things which he possesseth." "In those rude times, it did not, property was then insecure, and the more a man had, the more he was exposed to the depredations of lawless power; it does not yet, where men live under arbitrary governments; but with us the case is very different, every man here sits securely under his own vine, and rejoiceth in the happy effects of his own prudence.

I say not, however, that to get money is the one thing needful; let it only be admitted as our second care. I say not that riches will supply the want of virtue; but what an awkward appearance does virtue make without them?—Some affect to despise riches, out of pure envy to those possessed of them; others affect to despise them to palliate their own imprudence; but the truth is, no man despises them in his heart, the lowest we can say of them is, that they are "the blessings of the left hand," nor can it be denied, that they draw great respect upon those possessed of them. With us, JAMES, poverty is the greatest reproach that can be, if we except a few low and unpopular vices. A poor man may plume himself upon his merit, but who that are much richer than himself, take the least notice of him purely upon that account? This may be wrong, but who can help it, we must take the world as we find it; and depend upon it, things are like to continue so a great while. Who would chuse to be avoided, despised, and ridiculed?

HAVE

HAVE you not often, with pleasure, observed the respect paid to me at quarter-sessions, at the assizes, and other public meetings? was all this, do you think, owing to the colour of my coat, or a tribute paid to my parts and learning? by no means, JAMES, the world considers me as a man of property; money is the parent of influence, and both our acquaintance and the public pay a degree of respect proportioned to their opinion of our influence. From all which the inference is obvious, get money, JAMES, by all fair and lawful means get money."—I cannot, at present, transcribe all this precious admonition, or sermon, call it which you will; you shall have the conclusion in my next. Farewel.

LETTER LII.

To the same.

"**L**OVE not the world," is indeed a favourite topic with some preachers; it is an excellent subject for a poor curate to declaim upon.—To glance at a prudent man's character, especially if he is a clergyman, is extremely grateful to many hearers; but let me assure you, JAMES, that many lash the world on the Sunday, who court it all the week: it is one thing to declaim, and another to act our part on the stage of life. 'Tis true, an apostle hath said, "love not the world, neither the things

things of the world, by which he is generally understood to mean riches and pleasures; but then it is the excessive love of these that is here condemned. When a man, from the love of money, goes to the highway, he disturbs society; he endangers his own life, and is clearly guilty of an excess. When a man, from the love of money, denies himself or his family the common necessities of life, he loves it to an excess. But what have all such cases to do with that attention to our worldly interest, that prudential care of our affairs, which is not only consistent with true piety, but even a branch of it?

I THOUGHT proper, JAMES, to enlarge a little upon this subject for your edification, and have only to add, that you must absolutely resolve upon one of these two things, either to make up to miss WITTERGIL, or promise solemnly never again to see miss BYFIELD.” “Pardon me, sir, if I tell you that they are equally impossible.” — “Impossible, did you say! — then I suppose you are married already?” — “Indeed I am not, sir, but since I must speak the truth, I will conceal nothing from you; miss BYFIELD and I are under engagements to one another, not to be got over.” — “Have you given her any promise in writing?” — “I have not, sir, but no worldly consideration shall make me falsify my word; I am sure sir, you would detest me, did you believe me capable of such baseness.” Then, JAMES, you must stand to the consequences;

I find you have shaken off all dependance upon me, and therefore I must be excused to give you up—you will please think of leaving my house to morrow—I shall appoint another to the curacy before Sunday.” “ For God’s sake, sir, consider what you are about ; if you have no tenderness left for me, yet have some for your own character. What must the world think, what would it say, were a minister of the gospel to turn his son, his only son out of doors, because he would not break his faith, and ruin an innocent woman ?”

“ THE opinions of the world had never much weight with me, JAMES ; in what I have said, you shall find me a man of my word.” “ Let me again beseech you, sir, to reflect for a moment upon your conduct ; admit I have been imprudent, is my crime beyond forgiveness ? is the punishment you threaten at all proportioned to the offence ? I am sorry I should have thus offended you, sir, and ready to pledge my honour, never to marry miss BYFIELD, without your approbation and consent, provided only, that I may see her as formerly, and never be urged to make up to any other woman.” “ These concessions won’t do, JAMES,—I will hear of no other terms than those I have already proposed.” “ Well, sir ! if it must be so, give me leave to assure you, that heavy as the loss of your favour appears, I feel more for you than for myself—A young man of education and principle, can never
be

be much at a loss for bread; but must it not cut him to the heart to know that his father is execrated upon his account?—the thought almost distracts me!—Would to God those metals had never seen the light which so fatally delude and ruin mankind!—if it must be so, sir, if I must quit my father's house, if I must bid a long adieu to my relations, or give up with a good conscience, there is no choice—welcome be the will of God!—I shall with pleasure leave a country where I cannot be seen without pity, and where that pity must always reproach the man who begot me.” “You are your own master, JAMES, you have shaken off all dependance upon me, and therefore I don't interfere in your future conduct”—So saying, the cool unnatural wretch left the room.—Farewel, my JULIE, you see I don't interrupt the narrative with a single word on any other subject.

L E T T E R LIII.

To the same.

“**I**T is impossible to describe the young gentleman's feelings when his father thus left him—he had a delicacy of sentiment, and sense of honour uncommon for his years, and the more extraordinary when one considers the vile example which his father had exhibited to him. He knew

too much of the old man's temper to doubt his firmness in the resolution he had taken, and therefore revolved in his own mind how to proceed. Sometimes he thought of calling upon Mrs BYFIELD, but his heart revolted against it, he knew he could not stand the shock of parting, probably to meet no more. Sometimes he resolved to set out for a relation's house, about thirty miles distant, where his mother and sister were then upon a visit; but neither had he courage for that; he rather chose to write to them. An exile from his father's house, he resolved, if he could help it, never to see a known face, till matters should be made up.

. BRISTOL lay about fifty miles distant, thither he resolved to go, as privately as possible, and from thence to take a passage to some of our American colonies. Besides being an excellent Greek and Latin scholar, he read and spoke the French; wrote a fair hand, and was a ready accountant. Add to all this, that he had a fine person, and a very genteel address. That afternoon he wrote a letter to Mrs BYFIELD, and another to her daughter, acquainting them of what had happened, and signifying his intention of leaving the country, but without mentioning where he meant to go, or any thing particular of his future views. His letter to miss BYFIELD concluded with these words, " I am unfortunate, my dear miss BYFIELD, but must not complain of a father—as I can no longer hope to be
happy

happy with you, let me not hesitate a moment in dispensing with any promise you have made, or any engagement you have come under to be mine—may you be happy in the possession of a heart more worthy of your virtues! tho' you never can of one that will value you more—I leave this place in half an hour—I had not the resolution to call upon you—I durst not even write to you time enough to have a return—your tenderness would quite unman me—Adieu, my dear miss BYFIELD! adieu forever!”

IN his letter to his mother he narrated every thing that had past between him and his father; gave her the best reasons he could for the resolution he had taken, but said not a word where he was going, or what were his future views. The letter concluded thus,—“I shall endeavour, madam, to preserve all the respect I can for my father; he may hereafter see his conduct in a different light, in which case I may once more have the happiness of acknowledgeing in person the infinite obligations I lie under to the best of mothers. Let me beg of you in the mean time, to think of me as little as possible—why should you disturb your own peace, by dwelling too much upon an accident, which however affecting, may in end produce much good?—you know, madam, that “it is not in man to direct his steps” let us commit our ways unto God, and he “will order our paths aright,” of his provi-

dence we can have no doubt, and in his protection we are always secure. To his holy keeping I commend you, my dear mother! farewel!"

He got up early next morning, and as he had resolved to travel *incog*, dress himself in a plain brown frock, and laid aside every exterior mark of a clergyman. He put up in his saddle-bags, a Greek bible, half a dozen of shirts, and a few pairs of stockings; and ordered his horse to be got ready. At nine o'clock he went into the public room as usual, and a stranger would not have known by his father's countenance, that any difference subsisted between him and his son; he address him in his usual dry manner, "By your dress, JAMES, you seem to be still of the same mind"—"There is no room left for repentance, sir."—Well, you must judge for yourself." After breakfast, the Doctor pulling out his pocket-book, thus address his son—"I think, JAMES, our accounts stand thus,—you have served the cure two years and four months, which at the stipulated salary amounts to 46 l. 13 s. 4 d. out of which is to be deducted twenty pounds for your entertainment during the two complete years, and five pounds advanced to you at different times, after which there is a balance coming to you of 21 l. 13 s. 4 d. Write a receipt in full, give up the appointment to the curacy, and here is your money."

THE

THE young gentleman, without speaking a word, wrote the receipt, gave up the act of curacy, and then having put up the money, burst into tears, repeating these words with a firm and unbroken voice—"Blessed be thou, LORD GOD of our fathers, forever and ever!—thou art equally present in all places, and in all the sure refuge of those who hope in thy mercy!"—"I should have been happy, JAMES, had these been the tears of repentance,—you will have sufficient leisure to reflect upon the evil consequences of disobedience to parents, and when, like the offending son, you come to see your folly, like the father in the gospel, I will receive you—farewel, I part not with you in anger."—"O my JULIE! does not your heart rise against this grave reproach to religion, who, with the language of piety in his mouth, harbours in his breast the basest sentiments, and a heart harder than the neather-millstone.—Farewel.

L E T T E R L I V.

To the same.

IT was in the month of July, and the weather sultry hot, when the young gentleman set out; he was full blooded, and in great agitation of mind; no wonder, therefore, that before he got to the end of his second stage, he found himself much out of order.

order. A violent pain in his head, and shooting pains all over his body, alarmed him so much, that, as soon as he alighted at the inn, he sent for a surgeon. He was plentifully blooded, but had a very bad night; and by next morning the pain had fixed in his left side. He was again blooded, but the pain continued, and all the worst symptoms of a pleuretic fever appeared. It was impossible either to proceed on his journey, or to return; indeed he imagined that his latter end drew on, and with great joy and composure lifted up his eyes to the AUTHOR of his being. He sometimes thought of sending an express to his father, but dreaded the mutual distress which a meeting in such circumstances must have occasioned.

ON the third day after the fever had seized him, the surgeon told him that there seemed great danger in his case, and therefore advised him to settle his worldly affairs. "That, sir, said he, will soon be done; I thank God I have no great attachment to this world, and not much of its goods to bestow. I am greatly obliged to you for your care and fidelity, and receive the solemn notice without any uneasy apprehensions. Death is a debt which we all owe, and which no good man scruples to pay." Having called for paper pen and ink, he wrote the following card to his father; "Before this comes to your hand, sir, your unfortunate son will be beyond the accidents of human life—He writes not to reproach
you

you—God forbid that in the near view of death he were capable of resentment—He has the consolation to reflect that he never willingly offended you; if he has done it without intention, let human frailty plead his excuse—Had he the happiness to be near you, in these serious moments, he would beg your blessing and forgiveness—He leaves this world with a satisfaction not to be expressed—Alas! sir, what has it to charm an immortal soul?—He forgets every thing that has lately past between you and him, but wisheth gratefully to remember all that from nature and gratitude he owes to a father—Be not too severe, sir, in your reflections on your own conduct—you could not possibly mean your son evil, and he is now thoroughly convinced that God ALMIGHTY meant him good by a late trial—My eyes grow dim—my hand trembles—farewel, my dear father!—may God preserve and comfort you!”—

He wrote also a card to his mother, and another to miss BYFIELD; that to his mother was in these words,—“ I know, my dear mother, that this will exceedingly distress you—I know the tenderness of your heart. Let me beg you to moderate your grief—what, beyond happiness, could you wish for your son?—and that, by the mercy of God, he firmly hopes for—we part indeed, but we part not forever—the friends of virtue, the true disciples of Jesus shall all meet again—shall meet to be happy forever—Think often of this, my dear mother; in
patience

patience possess your soul—yet a little while and shadows shall fly away—God afflicteth not willingly, nor grieveth the children of men—he scourgeth every son whom he receiveth—he correcteth us, that we may be partakers of his holiness—much, my dear mother, much would I say—but my eyes fail me—my sister—O my sister!—but she knows that I love her—I cannot proceed—to God’s merciful protection I commend my dear mother, and all my relations,—farewel!”——

THE card to miss BYFIELD run thus—“I thought not, my dear miss BYFIELD to trouble you again so soon—but being just on the verge of another world, I could not think of leaving this without assuring you that I die entirely yours.—The designs of PROVIDENCE are above our comprehension, but they are always just and wise.—This life is but a point, a mere nothing, compared to that state to which death shall introduce us—there, all difficulties will be explained, all mistakes cleared up, all tears wiped from our eyes—there, our happiness will be permanent and unmixed.—While you are reading this, my dear miss BYFIELD, charitably hope that your friend is entered upon that happy state, where, if the soul recollects aught of what past below, mine must often think of your many virtues—perhaps long for that happy day when we shall meet again to part no more.”

THE

HAVING had a very good character of the minister of the parish, he sent for him, and conversed for sometime upon religious subjects ;—after which he thus addressd him, “ As I am a stranger, sir, and at a distance from my relations, who, for some private reasons, I chuse not to make known, I must beg, that to the pious advices you have now given me, you will have the goodness to add your care and attention in regard to my interment. I would chuse to be buried as privately as possible, and if after defraying the necessary expence, any thing of the little I have about me remains, I desire you may give it to the poor. When I am no more, you will find a packet addressd for you, inclosing some cards to my relations, which you will be pleased to forward, as addressd ; but this packet you are not to open till I have been buried. In the mean time, sir, be pleased to accept of this ring, as a small token of my respect and gratitude.” —

CHARMED with his piety and good sense, and the great resignation he exprest to the will of God, the clergyman was almost constantly by him. He rejoiced in the gradual decay of nature, and would sometimes say, “ the last struggle will be the easier.” About half an hour before he died, putting forth his hand to the minister who sat by him, “ It is almost over my friend,” said he, “ pray that my faith fail not.” — He died on the fifth day of the fever, while the gentleman prayed by him ; and was buried

ried the third day thereafter. The interment over, the clergyman opened the packet address'd to him; how great was his surprize when he read as follows, " I now tell you, sir, what you must have soon heard from others, that the unfortunate stranger who with so much humanity you lately attended, was the son of doctor TERRENE, and late curate of ———: whatever the world may think of him, you are an unexceptionable witness of his conduct in the last and trying scene of life. I repeat here, what I ordered verbally, that it is my will and intention, you give to the poor, in whatever way you think proper, the little money that may remain after paying the expence of my funeral. I desire that my clothes may also be given to the poor. My horse, and furniture, and my watch, were given me by my father, and therefore I look upon them as his property. A mourning ring which I wore in memory of a dear deceased friend, may be sent to my mother; and the hair ring, with the words " truth and virtue," on the inside, to miss BYFIELD. Do you, sir, accept of a small case of pocket instruments and a Greek bible, upon which your friend, when living, set some value. This destination may perhaps be short in the common forms, but it is my real will and intention," (signed) JAMES TERRENE.

THE gentleman, though not personally known to doctor TERRENE, had heard much of his character,

rafter, and therefore juſtly concluded that ſomething extraordinary muſt have happened between him and his ſon. He wrote to the DOCTOR the ſame day his ſon was buried, giving him an account of his ſickneſs and death, and incloſing a copy of his will. The cards to his mother and miſs BYFIELD, with the rings, were alſo ſent, with a ſpecial order to the bearer to deliver them into their own hands." I can proceed no further at preſent, farewel, my dear JULIE.

L E T T E R LV.

To the ſame.

I KNOW your heart bleeds for this unnatural parent—What muſt he not have felt! how bitter muſt his reflections have been!—Theſe, my JULIE, are the natural emotions of a good mind—but alas! the world was all in all to this worthleſs man. Some would ſcarce be perſuaded that a character ſo conſummateſly vile had ever diſgraced humanity; but ſuch might be pleaſed to conſider, that when one has given himſelf wholly up to the love of riches, he reaſons himſelf out of every principle, and every feeling, inconfiſtent with the gratification of that grovelling paſſion. Daily obſervation ſhews the truth of Mr POPE's remark, that "one maſter paſſion in the breaſt, like AARON's ſerpent ſwallows up the reſt."—But I proceed to the concluſion of the manuſcript.

“ THE DOCTOR was at dinner when he received the accounts of his son's death; his hand trembled while he read the letter, and hard as his heart was, nature extorted a few tears from him. Mrs TERRENE was alarmed, and quickly understood the cause of her husband's concern—she threw herself on the floor; her daughter fainted—But let me not attempt to describe such unutterable distress—it is impossible, it is unnecessary. Two days after the DOCTOR set out for the place where his son died, not so much to weep over his grave, as to settle and examine the expence of his sickness and interment. He scrupled every article, and was with some difficulty persuaded to let the small matter of money that was over, go to the poor.

Mrs TERRENE was a humane sweet tempered woman, remarkably fond of her son, and in every respect the reverse of her husband. Her daughter was very much of the same disposition, and much had they both suffered from the DOCTOR's sordid turn of mind. They returned from their visit the second day after the young gentleman had left the house; and as Mrs TERRENE had not then received her son's letter, they were told, without the smallest preparation for it, upon what terms he had parted with his father. Mrs TERRENE had a brother in London, who had been always remarkably fond of the young gentleman, she therefore, with some reason, concluded that he had taken that rout; and
having

having wrote to him there, was very urgent that her husband should also write, entreating him to resolve upon nothing rashly, but rather to return to his father's house. But neither her own, nor her daughters tears and intreaties could prevail upon the DOCTOR to write a single line. "Make yourself easy, my dear," said he, "the young man will soon feel his own weight, and then return to his duty. In the mean time I will do nothing below the dignity of a father, or subversive of the natural dependance of a son."

WHEN Mrs BYFIELD and her daughter received the letters which Mr TERRENE wrote to them before he set out, both of them were exceedingly distressed, for both had the most tender and sincere regard for the amiable young man. Miss BYFIELD was inconsolable—her mother immediately dispatched a servant with the following card, but it came too late, Mr TERRENE had been gone two hours. "Let not my dear Mr TERRENE be too much cast down by his father's harsh usage—he knows his temper, and must make the necessary allowances. Mr TERRENE knows that Mrs BYFIELD has friends able to serve him in his own way—matters may still come right about. In the mean time she insists that he make her house his home—why would he break the heart of a poor girl whom he tenderly loves?"

I SHALL

I SHALL but just mention the future consequences of the DOCTOR's unnatural conduct. His wife abandoned herself to the most excessive grief, which landed in a settled melancholy, and soon deprived her of her reason. In this deplorable situation she lived five years. His daughter almost blind with crying, and excessively fatigued in attending her distressed mother, fell into a consumption, which in three months laid her in her grave, in the twentieth year of her age. Perhaps never a young woman met death with more alacrity. Mrs BYFIELD and her lovely daughter suffered all that it was possible to suffer from the acutest grief; the last, who had been so cruelly disappointed, firmly resolved to spend her future days in celibacy, and devoted her time and her small fortune to the purposes of piety and benevolence.

THE DOCTOR lived fifteen years after his son's death, happy and miserable, by turns, in his idol; but from that day, was avoided, despised, and execrated by all good men. About six months after his wife's death, he made his addresses to several ladies, but all of them rejected him with contempt. This however he bore with great indifference; but the premature exit of a young profligate, to whom he had advanced a thousand pounds, at the moderate rate of thirty per cent, gave his spirits a shock which they never recovered. It was generally believed that this transaction, which was no secret, added

ded to his former conduct, would have exposed him to the danger of ecclesiastical censure, but money, like charity, "covereth a multitude of sins." He died without having made any settlement of his affairs, and a poor man, a distant relation, succeeded to his estate. As the man had a numerous family, to whom he was unable to give a decent education, he had often in vain applied to the DOCTOR for a little aid; before the money came, the most important purposes of it were lost to the poor family, who had grown old in rusticity and ignorance." Thus endeth the manuscript.

WHENCE is it, my dear JULIE, that so many parents can read a thousand such instances, without seeing, when the case happens to be their own, the absurdity and danger of these arbitrary proceedings?—must it not be from a fond conceit of their own superiority?—They condemn this or that circumstance, in such a father's conduct, and think they would have managed matters better; not considering that our only security against doing foolish things, is always to act upon the general principles of reason and equity. When the peace and happiness of a son or daughter is the great and leading object which a parent has in view, to that capital object every circumstance, not essentially requisite, will be sacrificed: ambition will be curbed, avarice will be restrained, moderation and common sense will be heard. But where a parent only considers
sons

sons and daughters, as means to encrease the fortune, or promote the influence of his family, the great and important articles of peace and happiness go for little. A father of this turn of mind, places his own happiness in wealth and influence, and therefore has no idea of any other or higher for his children. Farewel, my JULIE, live, and be happy.

LETTER-LVI.

To the same.

YESTERDAY, my dear JULIE, was one of the most agreeable days I ever spent. It has been long the custom of this worthy family, to pay particular honours to the distinguished day so joyous to mankind. Every Christmas morning my lord ARNOLD clothes ten old men, and my lady an equal number of women; each of whom, besides a complete suit, receives a half pottle of, a piece of meat, and half a crown, under the following rules: 1st, That when in health, they regularly attend their parish church on Sundays and holy days. 2^{dly}, That they never get drunk, nor quarrel with their neighbours. A repeated trespass in either of these particulars, strikes them off the list, in which they are never replaced, even in case of a vacancy, under two years probation. In the

the event of a vacancy, by death or misbehaviour, people of a sober decent character are always preferred.

You cannot imagine how happy the poor people were with their new clothes, which were put on in the servants hall before morning prayers. At half an hour past eight the bell rung, by which time most of the farmers sons and daughters in the neighbourhood were conveyed in their best apparel. Twelve girls, esteemed the finest fingers in the parish, drest in white, with chaplets of flowers upon their heads, stood in two rows before the altar, with the ten old men on their right hand, and the ten women on their left; and as soon as the family were seated, the girls sung the following anthem, which had been set to music.

“ARISE, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people, but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see; all they gather themselves together, they come to thee, thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.”

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AFTER

AFTER prayers, the hymn, "My soul doth magnify the LORD," &c. was sung by the girls, accompanied by a select band of young men. And last of all, the song of good old SIMEON, by the old men and women alone. There were many charming voices among them, and you would not easily believe with what taste and propriety they sung in general. When the blessing was pronounced, the singers, both men and women, walked in procession to a parlour, where my lady ARNOLD did them the honour to breakfast with them; and it is a rule, that if any of the girls are married before next Christmas, she has a pair of ruffles, and a satin cloak and hat. Every body at prayers had an invitation to breakfast; hospitality, joy, and festivity prevailed. How excellent, my dear JULIE, must that religion be, which inspires mankind with such generous and worthy sentiments?—What obligations do people of rank and fortune ly under to providence? Happy themselves in the abundance of all good things; and happy even in the necessities of others: suppose every man and woman able decently to cloath and feed themselves, and you deprive lord and lady ARNOLD of one of the greatest pleasures in their life.

THE family went to church in the forenoon, where we had an excellent sermon, and a crowded congregation. The VICAR, with his wife and daughter, dined with us; the company were uncommonly

commonly chearful. When the cloth was taken away, and grace said, we crost hands, and wished one another many happy returns of the joyful season; after which my lord took a glass of wine, and gave for the first toast, "health and happiness to all mankind." When the king's health had gone round, lord ANNOLD stepped up to my lady, kiss'd her hand, and most obligingly said, "This, my love, is the forty third Christmas dinner we have eaten together—you are the woman of my choice; and as dear to me as ever." "Well, my lord!" said the amiable woman, "we have grown old together; beauty must fade, but friendship is immortal."—How venerable is old age in such a pair!—how respectable such characters!—farewel.

L E T T E R LVII.

To the same.

A GRAND-NEPHEW of my lord's, who upon his death succeeds to the title and estate, has been for some days here on a visit; he is a very promising youth, about twenty years of age. His father, who died about four years ago, left him an estate of about five hundred pounds a year, but, if you will pardon the expression, embarrassed with daughters. A mother and grandmother's jointure, with the support and education of seven sisters, you

may well imagine, would not leave much for the brother. It is commonly observed, that few men are fond of their apparent heirs, when not their own children; and even these have been sometimes beheld with a jealous eye. This is by no means the case with the worthy lord Axtell, he could not be fonder of his own son, than he is of this young gentleman. On his father's death, my lord took upon himself the sole charge and conduct of his education; and at an uncommon expence, engaged a gentleman of probity and learning to oversee and direct his studies.

He has not yet travelled; my lord is of opinion that a young man should lay in a stock of good principles, and be well acquainted with the constitution, commerce, improvements and natural curiosities of his own, before he visits foreign countries: he says, a boy may admire their fashions, and learn to imitate their vices and follies, but it requires the judgement of a man to remark upon their laws, their customs, and manners. His governor and he, have already visited the north of England, and been in Scotland the length of Edinburgh. They intend next summer going the length of Inverness, and returning, the west road by the way of Glasgow. My lord has the young man often with him, and besides examining him in regard to the different places he has seen, is at infinite pains to guard his mind against the two extremes of prodigality

lly and avarice. To shew the folly and danger of the first, he observes, that besides depriving a man of the pleasure of doing good, and even sometimes of bread to put in his mouth, it exposes him in end to the contempt, and insults, of the meanest of mankind, who have neither the spirit to spend, nor the grace to employ their fortunes in beneficent purposes. As an antidote to the last, he strongly points out the baseness of a selfish disposition; the care, the inquietude, the suspicion, the distrust that continually preys upon little minds; and the superlative folly of relinquishing, every generous sentiment, every rational enjoyment, to accumulate an useless heap of shining metal.

I THOUGHT my lord introduced several subjects to try the disposition of his relation; I will give you an instance or two.—One of his tenants had lately given in proposals for the improvement of a large tract of barren ground, which lay contiguous to his farm, and had offered to be at the whole expence of inclosing, culture and manure, provided he were to have a lease of the ground for fifty years, at two shillings per acre. The proposals were repeated—“And now, WILLIAM,” said my lord, “what is your opinion, shall the man have the lease, or shall he not.” “The determination of that point depends upon your lordship, who I am sure will do in it what you think just and reasonable.” “Still I should be glad to have your sentiments of the proposal

posal.—But first, let me tell you, that the ground does not at present yield a single penny of rent, nor indeed is likely ever to yield any, till it has been first improved at a considerable expence. It lies between two farms, which have besides a superabundance of waste grounds, and as both the tenants have rather an under quantity of arable land, I imagine, by the end of the fifty years, it might let for eight or ten shillings the acre, if improved, and managed in the way the man proposes.”

“My lord, said the young gentleman, I am no proper judge of these matters, and if I were, it would ill become me to dictate to your lordship; but since you do me the honour to insist upon my opinion, it is, that the man should have his lease. The sooner improvements are begun, the sooner they will be useful to the country; better eight or ten shillings per acre at the end of fifty years, than just nothing, as at present. If the tenant, in the mean time, makes a reasonable profit by his industry and advance of money, he is certainly well intitled to it.” “Very justly observed,” said my lord, “and so the matter shall be settled. It is extremely ill judged to prevent others from doing a service to the public which we cannot conveniently do ourselves; it is rather late in life for me to go upon improvements, and I imagine when you come to the estate, you will find ground enough to work upon, besides this spot.”

ANOTHER

ANOTHER day, when the scarcity of good servants had been the subject of conversation, my lord observed, that if people would be well served, they must shew some regard for faithful servants. "THOMAS, my coachman," said he, "is grown gray-headed in my service, he is an honest man, but has not been the best oeconomist in the world; indeed he is not covetous, and never insisted upon the highest wages; I question whether he would serve the best man in England for forty shillings a year more than I pay him. I therefore propose to settle a small annuity upon him and his family. I hope, WILLIAM, you will not think this unreasonable." "God forbid I should, my lord!—in that you will act quite in character—the poor man has been always most obliging to me, and long may they enjoy whatever sum your lordship shall be pleased to settle upon them."—Are you not happy, my dear JULIE, that the worthy man has the agreeable prospect of such a successor!—Farewel.

LETTER LVIII.

To the same.

WHILE we were at breakfast this morning, my lord had a card from a gentleman in the neighbourhood, and withdrew to write an answer to it. When he returned, addressing himself

self to me, "Lady HARIET," said he, "I have just done a thing not common, I wish your ladyship may not think it unpolite."—"Tis odd if I should, my lord, you are the last man I should suspect of unpoliteness." "The case is this, a neighbour of mine, with whom I have lived, upon general terms, for several years, has, I think, forfeited all title to my esteem, and therefore, I have declined to accept of a visit from him. I have in my hand a copy of my answer to his card—"As your conduct, of late, has reproached your relations, and brought a blush upon every face connected with you or them, I must decline the favour you intend me. I knew the benefactor you traduce, and much I respected him. No human character is perfect, but in his there were fewer faults, and greater virtues, than in any I have been acquainted with. I make no other apology for what I now write, but that I hold it to be the indispensable duty of every good man, to vindicate the honour of the dead, when he really believes it to have been injured."—"I am sure, my lord, there must have been something very much amiss in the gentleman's conduct, that could extort so sharp a rebuke from your lordship." "I do indeed think there was, madam, I cannot even doubt of it, if benevolence be a virtue, and ingratitude a crime. I believe, for my own vindication, I must let you a little into my neighbour's history.

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But he is connected with very respectable people, he could have had little by his father, who was a younger brother, and all his life valued his character more than money. The gentleman had a relation abroad, engaged in trade, not then rich, but in great esteem with those among whom he lived. To this relation my neighbour was sent out, when a mere boy, and in the course of a few years, by his interest, preferred to a very lucrative employment, in which he had made his fortune by the time of life that most men begin to make theirs. He was engaged with his relation in several joint concerns, some of which turned ill out, but in others they were more successful. As he was careful and industrious, he was, in this way, useful to his relation; but a modest man will never boast of services done to the person whose friendly aid alone put him in a way of serving himself. When he had thus made his fortune, he came home and settled in this country, as his relation also did, several years thereafter.

I know his relation well, and of all men upon earth, he most resembled the old gentleman whom your ladyship lately saw at my house; his character was venerated by every good man. An unlucky difference, in point of interest, arose between my neighbour and a near relation, a young man of great worth, and in just esteem with the old gentleman. He therefore thought himself obliged to

interfere in their matters, in which indeed he had a small personal concern. It is a certain fact, that the more generous a man's sentiments are, the more he will be hurt by whatever has the appearance of being selfish and oppressive. Upon examining into this matter, the old gentleman imagined that my neighbour meant to take some undue advantages of his relation; he endeavoured to vindicate his own conduct; the other remained unsatisfied, and thereafter warm words, and not very cool letters are said to have past between them.

AT this time, the old gentleman, who had long laboured under a chronical disorder, was in a very distressed situation; but his faculties entire, his benevolence as ardent, and his zeal for justice as strong as ever. It is not necessary that I should enter minutely into the particulars of their conversations and letters; suffice it to say, that my neighbour, forgetful of what he owed to decency, and his own character, disclaimed all obligations to his relation, excepting only some presents, too trifling to be named, and even had the modesty to say that he had made the worthy man's fortune.

WHEN the gentleman died, he past by my neighbour in his settlements. Admit, my lady HARIET, that he had partly mistaken the matters in dispute, admit that in consequence of that mistake he had said or written some warm things; would
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any man of common feelings have disturbed an old man in his last moments, had he even been less obliged to him?

WAS my neighbour sensible of his rash and unnatural conduct, when his benefactor was no more? did he water his grave with the tears of repentance? no, madam, he traduces the character of his worthy relation, and is at infinite pains to lessen and explain away obligations, which the utmost attention of a whole life could never have repaid. The man whom all the world believed the most generous and disinterested friend, he would represent as one who, in every thing he did, only consulted his own interest. As soon may he persuade us that truth and falsehood, light and darkness, are the same. Could he, whose friendly aid no honest man ever solicited in vain, be yet artful, selfish and ungrateful?—What worldly interest could he serve, by freely and secretly bestowing his money for the relief of indigent families? This was, if any thing can be, “giving without hoping to receive again;” what, but the approbation of heaven, and his own mind, could he hope from serving strangers and poor people, who could never return the obligation?

INGRATITUDE, madam, is the only part of my neighbour’s character in which I am concerned, and I know not that I have said a word of it in any other view; if my resentment of that has carried me

too far, I stand at your ladyship's tribunal; the evidence is now before you, condemn or acquit as you see cause." "Guilty, my lord, upon my honour!—I love originals, and the dignity of your lordship's mind has deprived me of the pleasure of seeing one—The copy, however, is strongly marked, and I think I should know the man among a thousand; he certainly can have little human even in his exterior. Why, my lord, will you thus reproach your cotemporaries? who, besides your lordship, ever thinks of giving up an acquaintance for his ingratitude to others?"

"INGRATITUDE, madam, is an unquestionable proof of a bad heart, and if any thing can aggravate the guilt, it is, that the benefactor was one of an excellent character. If, during his life, while there remains any hope of being farther benefited by him, we show him much external respect, and only attack him in the grave, then the crime has acquired the highest degree of malignity; I can scarce conceive how the malice of devils and reprobate spirits can exceed it."—Upon a subject so disagreeable, this letter is a great deal too long—farewel.

L E T.

L E T T E R L I X.

To the same.

YOU justly observe, that a character so firmly established in the hearts of good men, can suffer nothing by so rude an attack ; bad as the times are, men will not suffer the recent memory of the just to perish ; they will not, to sooth the pangs of disappointed avarice, swallow the grossest absurdities, and on the very suspicious testimony of a single evidence, reprobate one of the most amiable characters that ever did honour to human nature. Disinterested benevolence is a disposition of mind so amiable in itself, and so beneficial to mankind, that in all ages it has been held a first rate virtue. In such high esteem was it with saint PAUL, that he scruples not to suppose “ that for a good man one would even dare to die.” Hence it is past a doubt, that an ungrateful man is an enemy to the human race, as his conduct has a natural tendency to discourage the exertion of the benevolent principle.

SUPPOSE one to have the command of money, and great respect and influence in society ; suppose him ever so well disposed to promote the interests of the friendless and helpless ; ever so ready to relieve

relieve the necessities of his fellow men; must it not give him pain to reflect that his best actions may be mistaken and misrepresented; that some may impute them to weakness, and others to design? If he takes under his immediate protection a friendless stranger, feeds him at his own table, and rears him as his own child; must not the remotest probability that he is cherishing a serpent to sting him hereafter, in some degree, deprive him of the pleasure which heaven has annexed to doing good, and damp the ardour of his benevolence? And yet, my JULIE, no man who reflects upon the returns which others have met with, will be much disappointed if their case shall happen to be his own.

BUT, my JULIE, though benevolence be the source of the good man's most exquisite pleasures, and what gives a high relish to his other enjoyments; there are minds so consummately vile, as even to deny the existence of this principle in human nature. Shall we reason against so unworthy a sentiment?—it were idle. A blind man may be brought to believe that there are colours; he may have the candour to acknowledge in others, an organ of perception which he finds not in himself: but the wretch who in all his actions only regards his contemptible self, will never believe that any pleasure can arise from one's parting with his money, or applying his interest, in any case, but where there is a high probability of promoting his own selfish

selfish ends, or increasing his influence. Or if he admits that some men have a momentary satisfaction from what they call good natured actions, yet he contends that these pleasures are founded in weakness; that they are of the same kind a profligate finds in throwing away his money, or a miser in hoarding it up; in short, that all pleasures originate in self-love, and ultimately refer to it.

WHAT kind of notion must that man have of GOD ALMIGHTY, who excludes from his character the idea of disinterested benevolence?—What principle besides, could have induced him to call the universe into existence?—what besides, could have induced him to make such a liberal provision for the wants and necessities of its numberless inhabitants?—If then we cannot but acknowledge and venerate this excellence in the SUPREME BEING, do we judge wisely in denying it to man made after his image? In man, indeed, it is blended with great weakness and imperfection; but the same in kind, though different in degree. Ingratitude is rather a superinduced than a natural vice, and more rare in rude than in civilized nations. A proud man raised from the dregs of the people, cannot bear to see one in a much lower station, with whom he was formerly intimate; though to that very person's humanity and friendship he may owe a great deal: this is ingratitude, but it is grafted on pride. A man may have been much benefited by a benevolent relation;

tion; the obligations may have been such that he cannot possibly forget them—he sees that relation do good to others, and “his eye is evil;” forgetful of what he had done for himself, he abuses him for what he does for others,—this is ingratitude, but it is grafted on avarice.

WERE all men of character, after my lord ARNOLD's example, to treat with just contempt notorious offenders in this way, I am persuaded society would reap great advantages from it: many who have no regard for virtue and religion, set a high value on the external marks of respect which men pay to one another, and are too proud easily to put up with neglects. This indeed could not mend their hearts, but it might restrain their lives, and be some sort of security against the malevolence of their tongues. But if men may blaspheme their God, revile their king, and abuse their benefactors, without the least danger of being the worse received in company, crimes of the most dangerous consequence to society must daily gain ground, and men proceed from bad to worse, till at last the distinction between virtue and vice shall scarce be known or regarded. Farewel, my dear JULIE,—let us pity those whom we cannot mend.

L E T.

L E T T E R LX.

To the same.

A LADY of an uncommon character has lived in this parish for five years past. She lodges at the house of a decent farmer, keeps a maid, but sees no company; nor has she ever been known to make a visit but at the VICAR's house. She is the pattern of industry, constantly at work, and said to be the widow of an officer killed in a duel. My lord and lady ARNOLD, and others in the parish, have, through the VICAR's interest, endeavoured to get acquainted with her, but without effect; a firm resolution of living absolutely retired, has made her decline all advances, she regularly attends the church, but covers her head so much, that very little of her face can be seen.

THE VICAR dined here yesterday, and on going away, put the following card privately into my hand, "If a fallen and degraded human being, once happy in the friendship and esteem of lady HARRIET MORLEY, durst hope forgiveness, she would beg the happiness of pouring forth her sorrows into the breast of that amiable woman, O that she could add, that dear friend! Lady HARNET may

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have

have heard of a poor disconsolate woman in the neighbourhood, said to be an officer's widow—that truly poor woman is no other than the unfortunate lady ANNE TUNBRIL.”—Here, my JULIE, I dropt the paper from my hand—good GOD! I had long believed lady ANNE in another world—The card went on,—“ The seeing lady HARIET so often at church, both now, and when last at lord ARNOLD's, excited so strong a desire of conversing with her, that it could no longer be resisted.—The VICAR and his wife are in the secret of lady ANNE's real character, and if lady HARIET has the goodness to take any notice of this card, the answer may be addressd to Mrs VILLAMONT, under the VICAR's cover.”—

ALAS, my JULIE! what a world do we live in? I can remember this unfortunate woman, high in the esteem of her relations, happy in the affection of her husband, and blest with every thing the young and the gay set a value upon. When about two and twenty, she married Mr TUNBRIL, a gentleman of a large fortune, and a man of worth in most respects but this, that from his long connexion with loose women, he seemed to have lost that delicacy of sentiment in regard to our sex, which in spite of prejudice, I will take the liberty to call natural. He affected to believe that virtue in a woman was a mere pretence, a convenient word made use of to save appearances; and when he heard of a
husband

husband, or father reproached by the misconduct of a wife or daughter, he laughed at the weakness and prejudices of mankind, which could give importance to accidents so common and natural. All this notwithstanding, he was remarkably fond of lady ANNE, who really was a very sensible pretty behaved woman. He had not even the prudence to conceal his lax principles from his wife, but openly avowed them at all times, and in all companies. The human mind, my dear JULIE, cannot at first bear the thought of those things which by habit and familiarity at last become tolerable, and even agreeable to it. How much better is this exprest by your favourite poet?"

"Vice is a monster of such frightful mien,
As to be hated needs but to be seen;
But seen to oft, familiar with its face,
We first behold, next pity, then embrace."

THOUGH lady ANNE had not the happiness of the most strict and virtuous education, yet she had a strong sense of decency and decorum, and would often modestly check her husband, when running out in the common place way against the weakness and frailty of women. He would tell her, he knew her to be a good and virtuous woman, but that one swallow made not a summer. A very accomplished young gentleman, a relation of Mr TUNBRIL's was often at his house, where he would sometimes reside for months together. He was well acquainted

with that gentleman's loose principles in regard to women, and had often been an ear witness of his indiscreet mention of them before his wife. To say that he inferred from this, that his relation would disregard the dishonour of his bed, would perhaps be rash, but that he was thereby the more emboldened to make an attempt upon lady ANNE's principles, is what we have no reason to doubt. I know nothing of the wicked and fallacious arguments by which he seduced her,—may they be buried in everlasting oblivion!—suffice it to say, that from unquestionable evidence, they were but too successful—there was no room left to doubt of her infidelity.

HER husband, who had all his life talked so lightly of these matters, exceeded all bounds in his rage and resentment—he laid his relation dead at his feet, and would have probably served his wife in the same manner, had she not jumped from a window to escape his fury. By the prudence and humanity of an old servant, who came into the family with her, she was concealed in the house for some days, till her relations could privately take her away. It was soon after given out, that a vessel was cast away, in which she had embarked for France. O that women would seriously consider upon what a precarious footing they stand with the world, and how soon the fairest appearance of worldly happiness may be blasted; that their character

rather once gone, is gone for ever.—I sent a card to the unfortunate woman, promising to see her at the VICAR'S to morrow afternoon; as I sometimes visit there alone, I can see her without the least suspicion. I charge you not to shew this letter to any mortal.—Farewel, my JULIE, “let her that standeth, take heed lest she fall.”

L E T T E R LXI.

To the same.

I CALLED upon the unfortunate lady ANNE at the VICAR'S yesterday afternoon. She was in a room by herself, and had given orders that no body should introduce me. After conversing a little with the VICAR and his wife, I gently knocked at the room door; my lady asked me to come in, and came forward to meet me, her eyes bathed in tears. Lifting up her hands breast high, she claspt them in one another, fainted, and fell flat upon the floor. O my GOD! how shall I describe the situation of my heart!—I threw up a sash; in a few minutes the poor woman recovered her senses, but refused to rise from the floor.—“You see at your feet a wretch unworthy to look up, who has ruined herself, dishonoured her relations, and brought a blush upon every face which knew and loved her”.—I threw my self by her, and refused to hear a word more,

more, all the should arise and be seated. " Since it must be so, madam, I shall arise, Heaven will reward your humanity.

For some time after she had taken her seat, a solemn silence ensued; at last, with down-cast eyes, she thus proceeded, " You may think, madam, and with great propriety, that it was the highest presumption in so mean a creature but to wish to see you, for Heaven and earth are not more asunder than a woman of virtue, and one that is lost"—I begged her to lay aside that distance with which she address me, and to speak with the same ease and freedom with which we used to converse. " God forbid I could! in that case I should be too insensible of my own demerit; I shall however, as much as possible, avoid such humiliating expressions, as they are too much for your ladyship's feeling heart. I could easily foresee, madam, that a card from me would distress you much, by recalling to your mind what I once was: I knew the tenderness of your heart. And yet an exile from the world, for five years, my mind strongly prompted me to embrace this opportunity of having a little conversation with a lady whom I had once the honour to call my friend, and of whose prudence I had no room to doubt." I assured her that I was happy to see her, and the more so, that I had long believed her in another world.

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"THE report, madam, of my going abroad, and the vessel's being cast away, was, with my own knowledge and consent, industriously propagated by my relations; that after a little time, the world might cease talking of one who could not be mentioned without infamy. I have some reason to believe that my husband really thinks me dead, and have no inclination to undeceive him; as from the moment I left his house, I determined never to see him again, nor to eat a morsel of his bread, if my own relations would do any thing for me. The small matter necessary for subsisting me, in the way I now live, was readily and chearfully secured by a benevolent relation, and is paid to me quarterly. Except that relation, your ladyship, the VICAR and his wife, and my landlord and landlady, there is not a soul upon earth that knows any thing of me.

I HAVE been unfortunate, madam, and but for the comforts of religion, could not have borne to drag on a wretched life. But since I am entirely satisfied of the sincerity of my own repentance, and well assured of the mercy of heaven, I am quite resigned to my fate; indeed so much so, that nothing could induce me to launch again into a world, where one must expect to meet with so much trouble and so many temptations. While I talk with your ladyship, my heart is relieved; I almost forget the distance between us."—"Don't talk of distance, lady ANNE, if true penitence restores to the favour of heaven,

heaven, shall it not to the friendship and good-will of mortals? especially of one whom you never injured?—You were indeed unfortunate, but the world imputed your offence, in a great measure, to the imprudent conduct of your husband: men who know us to be weak, should rather fortify, than undermine our principles.”—My heart is too much affected to proceed,—how deeply should these beautiful lines of THOMSON be engraved upon the hearts of every woman!—

ye fair!
 Be greatly cautious of your sliding hearts:
 Dare not th’ infectious sigh, the pleading look,
 Down-cast, and low, in meek submission drefs’d,
 Prompt to deceive, with adulation smooth,
 Gain on your purpos’d will. Nor in the bow’r,
 Where woodbines flaunt, and roses shed a couch,
 While ev’ning draws her crimson curtain round,
 Trust your soft minutes with betraying man.

L E T T E R LXII.

To the same.

MY lady proceeded thus—“There can be no doubt, madam, but my husband’s indiscreet and unguarded, conversation made the labour of my unfortunate seducer much the easier; but still

I was sensible that want of principle in him could not justify breach of duty in me. I suffered my affections first to be seduced, and alas! when that is accomplished, the weakest arguments too easily prevail. O lady HARRIET! that women but knew, O that they would consider, the bitter reproaches of a heart thus led astray!—I, that to day was the respected mistress of my family, was the next day hid in a cellar, as the vilest criminal!—I, that to day was happy in the esteem and affection of my husband, was the next day the object of his hatred and contempt!—I, that to day was the pride and boast of my relations, was the next day their scandal and reproach!—I, that to day was but tempted, was the next day guilty, self-condemned, and undone!—Could I think of the tears which my crime would cost my relations, and my heart not bleed?—could I think that the world would reproach them on my account, and not feel for them?—can I think that tears of blood cannot wash out the stain of my offence with the world, and not be ashamed, even when I have ground to hope that my penitence is accepted by heaven?

BUT I forbear—your ladyship's heart is too much affected with my sorrows. I have but two things to beg, the first is, that while in this neighbourhood, I may sometimes have the pleasure of seeing you; the next, that except to a friend you can trust, you never mention your knowledge of

my retirement." I assured her ladyship that in both these requests she should be indulged; and that it would give me the utmost pleasure to be able, in any degree, to contribute to her happiness and amusement.—We parted soon after. What have I not felt for the poor unfortunate woman?—the tears of repentance are sweet, but still they are tears; the pleasures of innocence and a good conscience, are pleasures indeed; pleasures pure and unmixed. And though the opinion of the world is of little value to a heart conscious of its own integrity, the want of it is a bitter ingredient in the cup of the self-condemned.

I AM persuaded, my JULIE, that great numbers will think this lady has been too severe upon herself; all minds are not equally affected with disgrace. I admit it a very disagreeable circumstance to live an exile from our relations; I imagine it must be a long while before choice and habit can make such a situation even tolerable. But is there nothing to counterbalance its inconveniences? a great deal. A woman who has been guilty of so gross an offence against decency and religion, may, by her future conduct, be restored to the affection of her relations; her intimate friends, knowing what it has cost her, may perhaps value her more than ever; but the world in general neither forgets nor forgives. It is with such a character, as with a limb that has been broken, the fracture may be healed, but the
part

part is easily affected, cannot bear the least concussion, and even feels the changes of the air, more acutely than a limb that is sound. In what promiscuous company can such a woman be safe? how often may her mind be hurt without intention? if female chastity, if conjugal fidelity is but mentioned by any one present, can she lift up her eyes? must she not think that decency alone restrains the eyes of the company from being fixed upon her? her heart bleeds, her friends blush, and the pain of one moment more than counterbalances the pleasures of an age. If, on the other hand, the slips and miscarriages of other women are mentioned, and the consequent distress of husbands and relations, what must she not feel? the sympathy of others is pleasing and generous, her feelings are painful, and all her own.

BUT suppose the case, that she rarely hears those subjects mentioned in which she is nearly concerned, no woman in this unfortunate situation, who has a just sense of honour, can be present at a conversation of an hour's length, in which she must not meet with something to hurt her. She dares not read a newspaper, she must not look into a magazine, but some paragraph says unto her, "thou art the person—this lost woman will plead thy example." All these dangers, and a thousand besides, that woman escapes, who has fortitude of mind to bear retirement. If she is secluded from the joys of soci-

ery, so is she also from its cares. If the world talks of her, it talks of what she was, it knows not what she is. She enjoys the calm pleasure of doing good, and is not at all affected with the noise and bustle of the world.—Farewel, my dear JULIE, —love me, and be happy.

L E T T E R LXIII.

To the same.

I HAVE been again with the unfortunate lady ANNE, and cannot but regret that a woman of so good an understanding, and I will add, so good a heart, should have fallen. This reflection, my dear JULIE, conveys an important lesson; let us always keep at the greatest distance from danger; we are never less secure, than wrapt up in a foolish conceit of our own strength and resolution, GARTH has prettily, and I am afraid with too much justice said, that,

“ In spight of all the virtue we can boast,
The woman that deliberates is lost.”

My lady was under so much concern when I saw her first, that she said not a word of her present way of life. The next time I saw her, she had resumed her usual composure, and we conversed upon

a more equal footing. The farmer at whose house she lives, had served her father in the quality of a gardener, and before he left the family, had married one of the chamber-maids, for whom lady ANNE had a particular kindness. He is a careful industrious man, and had saved some money, when hearing of a convenient farm to let, though at thirty miles distance, he took a lease of it, about ten years before my lady's misfortune happened. As soon therefore, as she had resolved upon retirement, she determined to settle in the honest man's family. With that view, she got the relation upon whom she now depends to send for him and propose the thing. Terms were soon settled, and lady ANNE privately removed to his house, drest in widows habit. She dines with the family, but breakfasts and sups in her own apartments. She has a hundred pounds a year paid her quarterly, out of which she pays forty for lodging, dinner, and washing, for herself and a maid. I said, I thought her annuity rather small. "By no means, madam," said she, "I have all I could wish, and more, I am afraid, than I properly employ; more, indeed, than I would take, did I not know that my relation can well spare it, and that she has some confidence in me for the application of the over-plus.

If I may say it, madam, without the imputation of vanity, I have the pleasure to reflect that I am of some use in the neighbourhood. There are in
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this parish, as in most others, many poor day-labourers, several of them charged with large families. These, your ladyship will readily believe, must in the severe season, especially when provisions are dear, have a hard time of it. When their children are born, or when they die, they must be at some extraordinary expence, for which they, generally, have no funds; and when the father or mother of such poor families die, or are confined to their bed by sickness, their situation is peculiarly affecting. With a view to be useful to this class of people, I cause my landlord, who is a very benevolent man, and of himself ready enough to supply the wants of the poor, I say, I cause him buy in twenty pounds worth of wheat and pease yearly, when grain is thought to be at the lowest price. This he distributes from time to time among the most necessitous, always with my advice and approbation, but must never give the remotest hint that I have any concern in the matter; he puts it upon the footing of a private bounty from a person of rank, who desires to be concealed. It is a general rule, that industrious peaceable people are most bountifully dealt by, and this, I can observe, has had a very happy effect upon the morals of many.

OTHER twenty pounds I appropriate for purchasing coarse linen, and woollen cloath, the disposal of which is under the direction of my landlady, who is a very worthy woman, and has always
treated

treated me with the tenderness of a mother. The other twenty pounds I reserve for clothes, servants wages, and occasional charities, and with the addition of my maid's work, and my own, it has hitherto been sufficient. Let not your ladyship suspect me of vanity in all this; GOD knows how little reason I have to boast?—Were it not that I find a pleasure in laying my heart fully open to you, a syllable of this should never have escaped my lips." I assured my lady that I could not possibly mistake her motives, or the temper of her mind. O my JULIE! what amiable virtues are charity and humility!—what has society lost in such a woman!—Another short letter will conclude the subject. Farewel.

L E T T E R LXIV.

To the same.

LADY ANNE thus proceeded—"The relation to whom I owe so much, had the goodness to furnish me with a small chest of well chosen books, and a set of the best maps; between these, the conversation of the family, and by frequently visiting at the VICAR's house, I pass my time very agreeably, and I assure you, madam, have not a wish left for the world. I should have explained to your ladyship how the VICAR came to know my real character; the truth of the matter is, I thought myself

myself obliged in conscience to let him know what a wretch I was, that he might the better apply the consolations of religion to my soul. God forbid, that one should approach the holy altar in a fictitious character!—The good man was distressed, he was exceedingly distressed; and had I not insisted that he should tell his wife, who is a woman of exemplary piety, prudence and virtue, I am persuaded the secret would have gone to the grave with him. It was stipulated between us, as it had been with my landlord and landlady, that I should never, either in public or in private, be distinguished by any other title but that of Mrs VILLAMONT.

PERHAPS, madam, when you consider the the curiosity of some men, and the mercenary disposition of others, you may wonder that my retirement has never been broken in upon by needy suitors. Attempts of this kind have been made, but as I laid it down as a fixed rule, never to be in company with a man, but the VICAR and my landlord, I have never been hurt by a personal application. I know not that I have omitted any thing in my conduct or way of life, worth your ladyship's hearing, if it be not, that upon the anniversary of a certain unfortunate day, never to be remembered but with sorrow, I make it a rule to clothe two poor women, partly with my own work—may their prayers be accepted for their unfortunate benefactor!"—What glorious opportunities
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of doing good have people of fortune, when so much may be done, so many poor people made happy, by the prudent application of so small a sum?—While we lament the fall of this excellent woman, let us adore the wisdom of GOD, which always draws good out of evil. Let us be thankful for a sober and virtuous education; let a just sense of the dignity of virtue be ever present to our minds; and if at any time it shall be our misfortune to hear it obliquely or directly wounded by our acquaintance, let us express our contempt of their understanding and breeding. Farewel.

L E T T E R LXV.

To the same.

SHALL I entertain you, my dear JULIE, with a little history which I had from my lord ARNOLD, yesterday forenoon?—In our walk we met a decent looking woman, whom my lord kindly saluted and stopt to talk with; when he rejoined me, “Lady HARIET,” said he, “did you know the poor woman I spoke to, I dare say you would esteem her; she has great merit, but has been unfortunate.” “Will your lordship oblige me with the outlines of her history?”—“I shall, madam, in as few words as I can—Her husband rented a large farm in this neighbourhood, which, in the opinion

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of the best judges, he considerably improved. He had a lease of it for nineteen years, and two lives, his own, and his eldest son's; but though a young man, he died, of a fever, in the fourteenth year of his lease; while his eldest son was but in his sixteenth year. He left other two sons and a daughter.

THE young man, by his mother's assistance and advice, managed the farm very well, and in the spirit of his father, went on to complete what improvements he had begun; but most unluckily fractured his skull by a fall from a rick, about three years after his father's death. He fevered, and died in a few days. The poor woman's family was then at the mercy of the landlord, and I am sorry to say that it met with very little. She gave in a memorial to the steward, setting forth, "that her husband and son had laid out their all, and even more than their all, in the improvement of the farm: and offered to instruct that it had not then returned two thirds of the expence;" she observed, "that the early death of her husband, and the unfortunate accident which cut off her son, could not fail to interest every feeling heart in her favour, and therefore prayed that her family might be allowed to possess the farm, upon the same terms, for nineteen years longer; or at least till it should return the expence laid out upon it."

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How unfeeling are some hearts!—she was told she could be no longer there but upon a new bargain. Her husband had paid ten shillings the acre, which, upon the view of a long lease, was three more than ever the lands had paid before; but if she possessed them for nineteen years longer, she was to pay fifteen. Supperadded to her other misfortunes, her last had been but a poor crop, which, scarce defrayed the expence of seed and labour—her husband owed a hundred pounds of borrowed money, and her children were too young to save the expence of servants—upon the whole, therefore, she resolved to quit the farm, rather than promise a rent, which, circumstances considered, she knew herself unable to pay. Having applied to me to use my interest with her landlord, I was at much pains to persuade him of the equity of making some allowance to the poor family, for the arrears due to it by the farm; but to no manner of purpose—the thoughtless young man was then too much taken up with running-horses and dogs, to feel for any body. He is now almost at the end of his line, with a racked rent, an empty purse, and a wretched character.

THE farm was let to another at fifteen shillings the acre, which, as it consisted of four hundred acres, was a clear gain to the landlord of a hundred pounds a year. The poor woman disposed of her crop and effects, and with great chearfulness paid

every body the last shilling; but when her matters were wound up, found she had scarce five pounds left for her family." I reserve the conclusion, as the subject of my next—How feelingly does the generous and humane THOMSON, regret the inhumanity of people of fortune!

“ Ah little think the gay licentious proud,
Whom pleasure, power, and affluence surround;
They, who their thoughtless hours in giddy mirth,
And wanton, often cruel, riot waste;
Ah little think they, while they dance along,
How many feel, this very moment, death,
And all the sad variety of pain.
How many pine in want, and dungeon glooms;
Shut from the common air, and common use
Of their own limbs. How many drink the cup
Of baleful grief, or eat the bitter bread
Of misery. Sore pierced by wint'ry winds,
How many shrink into the fordid hut
Of cheerless poverty.”

L E T T E R LXVI.

To the same.

“ I COULD not help being a little interested in the case of one that had been so hardly used; both my wife and I wished to do something for her.
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She had been house-keeper in a family of distinction, and we thought she would be a proper person for teaching girls sewing and household work. Such a one was wanted in the neighbourhood, and therefore I gave her a house and garden, with a small annual salary, having taken her bound to teach the daughters of the poorer sort *gratis*. She is a notable woman, and has been of great use in her way.

I PUT her two boys to school, and was at the small expence of their education. The eldest discovered an early turn for drawing, and being furnished with the proper books and instruments, he made a rapid progress in the science. I sent him to Oxford, and afterward to Italy, where he now is; and I hope he will one day do honour to his country. He is perhaps the most grateful being that ever man obliged; when we get home I will shew your ladyship some of his presents, upon which I set a high value. The youngest lad had a taste for letters, and is now at Oxford; I am too old to see him a bishop, but hope I may live to see him settled in a good living. The daughter, who is older than any of her brothers, was some years my wife's woman; and is now married to a very deserving young man, who manages an estate of mine at some distance. — You see, lady HARIET, how strangely things come about; whatever it might cost her in the mean time, I dare say this poor woman has not for some years past regretted the

the loss of her farm ; where she and her children must have gone through a great deal of drudgery and fatigue, with perhaps a more unpromising prospect than they now have." " I see, my lord, the goodness of providence, in stirring up benevolent minds to vindicate the rights of the oppressed ; your lordship has indeed made the widow's heart to sing for joy."

" THE truth is, madam, that in this instance, I have purchased a great deal of pleasure at a very easy rate. If people of fortune do not some good-natured things, I am afraid they will make but a poor account of their stewardship. But were there no future account to be made, I should think men would have more pleasure in being useful to their own species, than in hoarding up money, or squandering it away upon dogs and horses." " Every man, my lord, must be of that opinion, who is not dead to all the feelings of humanity, and who does not set a higher value on his amusements, than on the peace and approbation of his own mind." After dinner, my lord was kind enough to shew me some drawings which the young man had sent from Italy : they are noble indications of a fine genius ; but have an additional value stamp'd upon them, by the very grateful and polite letters which accompanied them."

Do you think AKENSIDE had this worthy family in his eye, when he wrote the following charming lines?

“ In all the dewy landscapes of the spring,
In the bright eye of Hesper or the morn,
In nature’s fairest forms, is aught so fair
As virtuous friendship? as the candid blush
Of him who strives with fortune to be just?
The graceful tear that streams for other’s woes?
Or the mild majesty of private life,
Where peace with ever blooming olive crowns
The gate; where honour’s liberal hands effuse
Unenvy’d treasures, and the snowy wings
Of innocence and love protect the scene?”

L E T T E R LXVII.

To the same.

YOU may think, my JULIE, that I frequently write upon subjects in which you and I have little concern; but I cannot help communicating whatever gives me pleasure, as I flatter myself that in most things your sentiments coincide with my own—A neighbour of my lord’s dined here to day, who in his younger years bore a commission in the army; he is a sensible well bred man, and bears an excellent character. An article in a weekly paper,

paper bore, that a soldier in a country town, who, for some crime, had received five hundred lashes, had fevered and died in a few days after, which introduced the subject of military punishments. My lord observed, that he could never reconcile in his own mind the idea of liberty with that of scourging; the infamous punishment of the vilest slaves. "No doubt," said his lordship, "there is a necessity for strict military discipline, to maintain good order, and the necessary subordination in the army; but I apprehend these ends might be attained by more lenient measures: and indeed I question much whether punishment ever made a good man or a good soldier. There is a sense of character, or, if you will, of honour, which, previous to public disgrace, prevails, more or less, in every human mind; and, in my opinion, it is the business of government, whether civil or military, to cherish this principle, as a spur to virtue, and a check upon vice."

"My lord," said the gentleman, "your observation is extremely just; I have rarely known a man turn well out after he had been publicly disgraced. Shame is a very powerful restraint, and when men have got over it, they generally proceed from bad to worse: I am sure it is remarkably the case in the army, where we observe the minds of men who have been often punished become quite calous, and, as one should think, even their bodies but just sensible

sible of pain. I went into the army early in life, and having been educated with an utter aversion to every thing that had the appearance of cruelty, was extremely shocked with the severity of military discipline. Where the commanding officer is a man of sense and temper, punishments are very sparingly inflicted; where he is rash and passionate, his influence in a court-martial generally brings over the other officers to harsh measures. I remember very well the first I ever saw punished was a poor fellow, who received two hundred lashes for being drunk upon guard. He had formerly borne a good character, and alledged, I believe truly, that a relation from the country, whom he had not seen for a long time, had, out of mere good-will, made him drink more than he would have chosen. Several of the officers were for acquitting the man, or at most for confining him; but the major, then chief in command, being a man of a severe temper, brought the greatest number over to his opinion. The poor man cried—he pled his former good character—he made many promises of better behaviour for the future, but all to no purpose. I could never forget a vile sentiment which the major expressed upon the occasion—"Were you a habitual drunkard, sir, we should have scarce taken the trouble of trying you, as you are not, take this as a *nota bene* to be sober hereafter."

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I HAD the hard lot to see the sentence put in execution, and I think shall never forget the distress of the unfortunate man: when his hands were tied up to the halberts, and his back laid bare, turning to me, with a look which pierced my soul, "For God's sake, sir," said he, "rather order me to be shot, I fear not to die; but a man who has been scourged as a slave, is unworthy afterward to serve his king and his country." I turned away my face, and told him I had not the power of altering his sentence—the adjutant stood by—the sentence was rigorously put in execution. The man complained but little, and when his hands were disengaged, and his clothes put on, seemed fullen. From that day forth he would, when off duty, associate with no man, in the regiment, who had not undergone the same discipline; and by thus attaching himself to men of bad character, he soon became as abandoned as the worst of them. Thus, my lord, a poor young man was ruined, and many others hurt by his example. I intirely agree with your lordship, that the necessary ends of order and subordination might be secured by gentler methods; the attention and good example of the officers are of the last importance to the private men; you cannot imagine the good effect that a little countenance shown to a few well behaved men has upon a whole regiment. I knew an officer, who, by preferring a man to a halbert for his decent appearance, made the whole company uncommonly careful of their clothes.

If an officer gets drunk, or swears, with what propriety can he punish a private man for these crimes? If contrary to the articles of war, which he is sworn to observe, he arbitrarily punishes a man, by striking him; or if he threatens and abuses one who dares not speak again, nor even lift up his eye, can he hope to be obeyed but from the most slavish principles? If an officer takes no more notice of a private man than of a broomstick, except when he sits upon him as a judge, need he be surprised at the commission of those crimes which are in a great measure owing to his own neglect of duty? for surely, my lord, it is the duty of those who have the honour to bear the king's commission, to watch over the morals and conduct of those under their command; to listen to their complaints, to redress their grievances, and to treat them with humanity, as subjects of the same prince, and men of the same nature. Where this is the case, the officers are generally respected and beloved, the private men reconciled to the service, and exemplary in the discharge of their duty. I do indeed admit, that there are some tempers equally base and obstinate; and that in the case of new levies, or when there is an extraordinary demand for men to complete old regiments, many of suspicious, and even of bad characters must be enlisted. But a wise and prudent officer will make the best of these emergencies; he will, with uncommon attention countenance the lowest degree of merit, and shew to the whole regiment, that nothing but sobriety, and a

strict attention to duty, can procure a man favour and preferment: He will avoid punishing, as much as possible; and when he must punish, it will always be with regret, and in just proportion to the demerit of the offender, all circumstances fairly considered. If he finds a man incorrigible, he will dismiss him, cost what it will, rather than have many hurt by his example. Indeed, my lord, I have long thought that it would be much for the benefit of his majesty's service, if this kind of punishment was more frequent; and if instead of the infamous custom of flogging, something less shocking were introduced. I would wish soldiers trained up with such a sense of honour, that turning a man out of his rank, or obliging him to appear for some time, without his sword or cockade, should have a stronger effect than the wooden horse or the lash.

No troops upon earth are fonder of their officers, or more grateful for good usage, than the British; generous even to their enemies, can they be insensible of what they owe to their friends? how many illustrious proofs of this have they given in time of war? what risks have they not run, how many of them have lost their lives in saving, or endeavouring to rescue their officers? During the late war in North America, a subaltern had a very seasonable and obliging proof of what importance it is for an officer to stand well with his men. He was a young man, of an excellent character, and
many

many amiable qualities, justly esteemed by his brother officers, and greatly beloved by the private men. When upon duty in the trenches, a bank of earth suddenly fell in and buried him in the ruins; the skirt of his coat, being just seen, pointed out the identical spot where he lay—the men flew to save him—they pulled by his coat, it gave way. In a little time, however, by the help of spades and shovels, they dug out the body, but no signs of life appeared. The men formed a circle about it—one run for a surgeon—another for spirits—some chafed his temples, and some with tears washed off the dirt from his face; while others wrung their hands, and in silent sorrow mourned the hard fate of a man whose superiority had never given them pain. The gentleman recovered, but, I imagine, will never thoroughly get the better of the shock; his breast was so much bruised, that he spit blood for a long time after. Are men of such generous and friendly sentiments to be trained only by the lash? no, my lord, I lay it down as a maxim, that as the officers of a regiment are, such will the private men generally be: if the first are brave, generous, and humane, the last will emulate their virtues, and wish above all things to stand fair in their esteem. But if the officers are dissipated, haughty and overbearing, the men will be disorderly, rapacious, and mean spirited: in these circumstances, virtue has nothing to hope, the common frailties of mankind have every thing to fear.”

I WAS the more interested in what the gentleman said, that he spoke feelingly, every word seemed to come from the heart. In my next, you shall have my own sentiments of the subject—Farewel.

L E T T E R LXVIII.

To the same.

HOW pitiable, my JULIE, is the situation of those poor men who serve under tyrannical officers!—born to the same privileges with those who command them, and even by the military law, entitled to good usage, it is, with them, often a point of prudence to put up with the worst: to quit the service, without leave, is death; to complain, except in cases of the most urgent, the most apparent necessity, may be construed mutiny, and expose a man to great danger and inconvenience. It is the envied privilege of British subjects, that they must be tried by their peers; but to me, there seems no great parity between a private soldier and those who try him. I have a very good opinion of the gentlemen of the army; I am convinced that many of them, I hope by much the greatest number, are men of honour and sentiment, who treat the private men with humanity, and consider their difference in birth and rank, as merely accidental; but I do imagine there are some officers, in most regiments,

ments, not the most proper to be trusted with the execution of severe military laws. In time of peace, when the troops are dispersed over the whole kingdom, the command often devolves upon subalterns, of no standing or experience; and a few boys may wantonly order a man to be whipt, old enough to be their grandfather. May we not hope, that our amiable sovereign, whose humanity extends to the horses in his army, will compassionate the case of the poor men who spend their lives in his service? Every generous and humane officer must see the matter in the same light that I do; many of these have suffered by the abuse of military power, and therefore will always wish it to be under the controul of prudence and good sense.

IN a late reign, the commander in chief of a garrison abroad, gave out in orders, that no man whatever should buy any fish, till they had been first offered at his kitchen; what a humiliating distinction was here!—An officer upon guard, who had a few friends to dine with him; either having forgotten the interdict, or not supposing that his superior ever meant to put it rigorously in execution, purchased a few fish, and had them drest for dinner; the thing came to the commandant's ears, the gentleman was called to account; he made apologies, they were disregarded; he was tried by a court-martial and broken. The affair was brought before the proper boards in England; and after infinite

nite trouble and expence, the sentence was confirmed. I cannot but think, my JULIE, that this unworthy order, and its consequences, must have been greatly detrimental to his majesty's service. What gentleman of a liberal spirit would chuse the army, if he must be thus subjected to the arbitrary will of an epicure? But while, in the present case, we are shocked with the meanness of the interdiction, we cannot acquit the officer of imprudence; indeed when we consider the importance of strict discipline, we must even allow him to have been criminal. Perhaps the best way to have saved the honour of the military law, would have been to have punished both; he who issued, and him who disobeyed the order: the first, at lowest, by a reprimand, published in the gazette; the last by affirming the sentence, upon the declared view of the example only, and without prejudice to the gentleman's future promotion to the same, or a higher rank in the army. For admitting the necessity of unlimited obedience, it by no means follows that a commanding officer, may, with impunity, issue out orders unworthy the character of a gentleman and a soldier. Establish this slavish principle, and snares may be easily laid to entangle and destroy every man of spirit.

As greatness of mind and humanity always go together, the most celebrated military commanders have ever been distinguished for the mild exercise
of

of their power: we had an instance of this in the great duke of MARLBOROUGH, not more remarkable for his conduct and bravery, than for his clemency and condescension; from a thorough conviction of the first, the troops fought cheerfully under his standard; conscious of the last, they loved him as a parent, and dreaded his frown more than the arms of their enemies. With such a general, an army must be always invincible; revered at home, and terrible abroad.

A GENTLEMAN, who served with his grace during all his campaigns, told me that upon the days when deserters were to be shot, the duke would frequently leave his tent, at the hour, and walk towards the place. The execution was always stopt till he came up, when the offenders fell upon their knees, and he commonly pardoned two out of three; and never without feelingly regretting the absolute necessity of making some examples. How venerable, my JULIE, does the great man appear, thus giving life to some, and scarce able to restrain the tear of pity, because others must die! A well timed act of mercy, though it may not always reclaim offenders, and may be sometimes an incitement to base minds to commit the like crimes, is nevertheless commendable and useful: it reconciles the minds of the private men to the severity of the military laws, which if always put rigorously into execution, would be quite insupportable. Saving a life, which

F f

had

had been justly forfeited, makes a whole regiment happy, and gives the offender an opportunity of retrieving his character. What desperadoes would not bad men be, if all hopes of mercy were precluded!—How noble is that sentiment! “to err is human, to forgive divine.”—Farewel.

L E T T E R LXIX.

To the same.

SINCE I have been at home, we have had a continual run of company, which hindered me from writing to you sooner. My lord MODISH did us the honour to stay two days, and I had great hopes of fixing him; he had said many fine things, and made considerable advances, but all was ruined by an unlucky discovery. My brother happened to mention that I was just returned from my lord ARNOLD's, where I had been for almost two months.

“So long at my lord ARNOLD's,” said he!—“I wonder how a woman of fashion can be entertained by the conversation of two people of the last age, who never saw the world, and have neither taste nor relish for the society of polite people. I imagine, my lady HARIET, you had prayers morning and evening?” “We had, my lord, and I can't say I eat my breakfast or supper a bit the worse for them.”

them." "The last time I saw my lord, his chaplain was luckily laid up with the small pox—The conversation I suppose would frequently turn upon the pigs and poultry; my lady is a notable oeconomist, my lord a good farmer." "I know not, my lord, but a conversation upon pigs and poultry, may be as edifying as a conversation upon balls, horse races, and operas." "Much depends upon taste, my lady."

"My lord ARNOLD has been long fond of agriculture, and I believe he owes to it that cheerful temper, and unbroken state of health, which make his old age so comfortable." "Health, madam, without the pleasures of life, is a very languid enjoyment; a kind of negative happiness." "What, my lord, are the enjoyments which my lord ARNOLD denies himself?" "Almost every one that others of his rank and fortune allow themselves—the pleasure of living in town in winter—the pleasure of elegant furniture, genteel liveries, variety of company, frequenting public places, and the like." "A town life, my lord, however eligible it may appear to those of great vacuity of mind, could have little relish to people of my lord and lady ARNOLD's sedate turn, and at their time of life. Their connexions are formed, their fortune made, they have no poor relations to push forward in the world. Though they frequently amuse themselves with a game at piquet, they have no

joy in gaming tables; they have a fund of entertainment in their own minds, and in the conversation of a few select friends, and therefore feel not the want of the public diversions. Could it contribute to their happiness, to live in a constant routine of company, for five or six months in the year? to be called upon and visited every day, by people by whom they were neither valued, nor could value? to have their rest broken in upon, morning and evening, by the noisy impertinence of profligates in the streets, and to live in the constant dread of fire, and other accidents, in a great city?" Warmed by the noble subject, I said more for my friend than I have now leisure to repeat;—but if the paper holds out, I shall transcribe a beautiful passage from THOMSON'S summer, and leave the application of it to yourself.

For ever running an enchanted round,
 Passes the day, deceitful, vain, and void;
 As fleets the vision o'er the formful brain.
 This moment hurrying wild th' impassion'd soul,
 The next in nothing lost, 'Tis so to him,
 The dreamer of this earth, an idle blank:
 A sight of horror to the cruel wretch,
 Who all day long in fordid pleasure roll'd
 Himself an useless load, has squander'd vile,
 Upon his scoundrel train, what might have cheer'd
 A drooping family of modest worth.
 But to the generous still-improving mind,
 That

That gives the hopeless heart to sing for joy,
 Diffusing kind beneficence around,
 Boastless, as now descends the silent dew;
 To him the long review of order'd life
 Is inward rapture, only to be felt.

L E T T E R LXX.

To the same.

WHILE my lord MODISH, with half attention, and now and then a smile of contempt, listened to my defence of lord ARNOLD's conduct, I thus proceeded—"Though my lord's furniture is not changed every six months, it is of the best materials, and was of the best fashion at the time it was made. Neither my lord nor my lady quarrel with their old friends or their old furniture. I have heard his lordship observe, that he could clothe and educate a dozen of poor children, at the expence which it cost some others to keep their furniture always at the top of the mode. My lord's liveries are always clean and neat; but he estimates no man's character by the figure or value of the lace his servants wear, nor does he see the propriety of being at an extraordinary expence to make his own servants vain and insolent. I admit, my lord, that company is essential to our happiness—but it must be the company of those we value and esteem; it must

must be the company of those who, in general, think and act as we ourselves do. What joy can a man of sense have in the company and conversation of a pedant? what pleasure can people of principle and a regular life, have in the society of a profligate, who disclaims even the imputation of virtue, and boasts of his intemperance? My lord ARNOLD is fond of company, and seldom dines alone; but his company are, generally, like himself, a little old fashioned.

GIVE my lord a man of plain common sense, a decent behaviour, and a good character, and he don't trouble his head about his legs and his bows. If he knows to do justice to those he does business with, and can but feel for the misfortunes of others; my lord will readily dispense with a little ignorance in the polite customs of the world. Would it be decent, my lord, for old people much to frequent public places? There is a time of life when bustle, and noise, and parade, are agreeable to most people, and tolerable to all; but that time has been long over with my lord ARNOLD; his sun has been long past the meridian, and if he devotes the evening of his days to the calm purposes of piety and humanity, can he be much blamed?" "Those, my lady HARRIET, who have seen the world, must see things in a different light from others—there is no disputing of tastes, every man is a rule to himself; but I think

I must be fifty years older, before I can be of your ladyship's mind in these matters."

"UPON my honour, HARIET," said my brother, "your conversation will become quite insupportable, if you thus go on to vindicate every absent character that one may take the innocent liberty of remarking upon. My lord ARNOLD may have virtues; but what have we to do with virtues which reproach us? if he throws away his money to rear beggars, and portion out poor girls, what is that to those who piously leave all such to the care of providence? if he retains a chaplain at an expence which would maintain a couple of running horses, and half a dozen brace of hounds, we can but pity his want of taste. If he lets his lands at a low rent, that beggars may become rich and insolent, it is our comfort, that very few will follow his example. If the severity of his morals reproach us, let the freedom of ours show that we are not ashamed. To have the esteem of the world, one must live as a citizen of the world,"—"He certainly must," said my lord MODISH—"it is not the business of a man of fortune to reform the world; let the clergy do it, they are paid for it." Thus my lord had the honour to conclude the conversation, and with sentiments worthy of his understanding and breeding. The poor creature did not seem to feel the irony of what my brother said. Farewel, my JULIE,—live, and be happy.

L E T.

L E T T E R LXXI.

To the same.

I HAD a disagreeable letter by last post—I have lost one of my best friends, and the most intimate companion of my early years: the accomplished miss BARRY is no more!——She had long laboured under a lingering indisposition, which she bore with great fortitude; and which, I imagine, was brought upon her by the humanity of her temper, which induced her to go abroad to attend a near relation in a declining state of health. That relation, to whom she lay under the highest obligations, died soon after, and my friend returned to England, exceedingly affected with the loss she had sustained. By watching and fatigue, she felt a lassitude and weakness grow upon her, which neither exercise nor medicines could ever get the better of. When I recollect the many agreeable hours we have spent together, when I think of the sweetness of her temper, the goodness of her heart, the purity and propriety of her sentiments, and of the low value she set upon all her good qualities, I feel for her beyond expression!—for her, did I say?—alas! I but feel for myself—my friend is happy, she must be happy; she was blest with those tempers and dispositions in which

which happiness is founded; and it was the great study of her life to cultivate them.

How dear, how justly dear was she to her friends and relations, and yet they knew her not; they knew not her full value till she was no more!—they have been taught it by the painful recollection of scenes never to be renewed!—How amiable was my friend in the practice of every duty, and of every virtue!—as a daughter, as a sister, as a friend, she was all that affection could wish; she was all that friendship could hope. How just, how noble were her sentiments of religion!—she was persuaded of its importance to society, from what she observed; conscious of its value to individuals from what she felt and happy in its prospects from what she believed and hoped. To my friend's internal qualities, nature superadded a fine person, tall and graceful; a mien and manner irresistably engaging; and a voice attuned to harmony and delight. How feelingly would she regret the misfortunes of others, how tenderly commiserate their distress!—But I check myself.——

—————* Thou, in heaven!

O thou eternal ARBITER of things!

Be thy great bidding done: for who am I

To question thy appointment?"—

DON'T you think, my JULIE, that there is often great impropriety in our griefs, as well as in our joys? We are commonly most affected with the death of the good and virtuous, though by all principles, moral and religious, these only are fit to die; these only are gainers by dissolution. But the fact is, that by fixing our eyes too stedfastly upon past scenes, and thinking too much upon the future pleasures we are thus deprived of, we lose sight of our friend's happiness. We think not, that while we lament a circumstance, common to all mankind, our friend is got beyond the accidents of human life; we think not that the terrors of death, the trials of virtue, and the fears of miscarrying, are all over. Let us, my dear JULIE, upon occasions of this nature, which, alas! we shall too often meet with, let us, I say, check our selfish feelings, and turn our eyes to the bright side of the scene. While we reflect upon a friend's body mouldering in the grave, let us rejoice that by the fall of these mud walls, a prisoner of hope has escaped to the regions of bliss.

—————"The wint'ry blast of death
Kills not the buds of virtue; no, they spread,
Beneath the heavenly beam of brighter suns,
Through endless ages, into higher powers."

L E T.

L E T T E R LXXII.

To the same.

MR MILFIELD and his wife have at last parted with mutual consent; and I think they have judged well, as never two tempers were more opposite. The company and amusements of the one were insipid and insupportable to the other, and if they may be said to have agreed in any one thing for some years past, it has been to plague one another, and distress their connexions. Mr MILFIELD succeeded his father in an estate of about eight hundred a year, which he had chiefly made by saving; he saw no company; he exacted the last farthing of every man, and knew no other pleasure but that of hoarding up money. His wife was a woman entirely after his own heart, and to decrepid old age, incessantly watched and toiled to add to her husband's fortune.

MR MILFIELD was their only child, and his father's sordid disposition notwithstanding, got a liberal education; he had however a littleness of mind which discovered itself very early, and appeared in all parts of his conduct: haughty, insolent, and overbearing, always affecting the company of those, in respect of fortune or education, his inferiors.

feriors. Though Mrs MILFIELD had the advantage of a virtuous education, she had a pertness in her temper, and an overweening conceit of a person very passible, that made her not the fittest woman in the world for one of her husband's turn of mind. They seem however to have reckoned upon making of one another just what they would; both were mistaken. She was fond of company and show, both were his aversion; he to have saved a shilling would have dined three days upon a joint of meat, she could never eat a dinner with any kind of relish, if fewer than half a dozen dishes were at table. He chose to go to bed at eleven, she thought that an early hour to have supper served in.

A GENTLEMAN dined here the other day, who, as a relation of Mrs MILFIELD's, had been present at a communing previous to the separation. He told us that there had been great complaints of both sides, as I believe must be generally the case upon such occasions; "But," said he, "I thought there was a great deal of reason in one complaint exhibited against my relation by her husband, which, though it bore hard upon her prudence, she was not able to deny." "My wife and I," said Mr MILFIELD, "have been long upon bad terms; perhaps we have been both to blame—but it was always my wish that our quarrels might never be heard of out of doors; I was even overawed by the
presence

presence of a servant. My wife, on the other hand, laid hold of every opportunity of exposing me; not an angry word that past between us in our bed-chamber, was long a secret to the meanest servant in the family: if, in the heat of passion I said an indiscreet thing of any relation or neighbour, it was repeated in public, and often to the very persons. I wished to appear in company, especially in my own house, as mannerly and obliging to my wife, as if no difference had ever arisen between us; but was often reproached before our relations and neighbours, for little circumstances to which none were privy but ourselves. This, gentlemen, gradually wore off all restraint, and things went on from bad to worse, till we are now become quite insupportable to one another."

IN this, my JULIE there was little prudence or common sense; it was, as if one should throw open the door and windows to extinguish fire in a room. Could we suppose quarelling and peace equal to a married couple, one should think the opinion of the world would have some weight in determining their conduct: the esteem and approbation of our relations and friends, is a comfortable circumstance in one's lot; how base must the mind be that disregards it!—A woman separated from her husband must either be pitied or blamed; if she is pitied, that pity reflects dishonour upon the person upon earth most nearly connected with her, and upon
her

her own judgment, for suffering that connection to take place. If she is blamed, and conscious that she is justly blamed, how insupportably disagreeable must her reflections be!—Had not a woman much better deny herself to some tempers, and put up with a thousand inconveniences in private, rather than thus throw herself upon the cold pity of the world?—shocking situation; when one can't be mentioned without bringing a blush upon the face of her relations. Farewel, my JULIE, let us discipline our own tempers, that we may live in peace.

L E T T E R LXXIII.

To the same.

WHAT has been long feared of our unfortunate cousin Mr PULLEIN, is at last come to pass—his affairs have run into such disorder, that there was a meeting of his creditors last week, who have taken the management of his estate into their own hands, and it is imagined the sale of the whole will scarce pay his debts. What then must become of his wife and five poor children?—My brother, who is a creditor himself, was present at the meeting, and gave us a most affecting account of the situation of the poor family. You know his estate does not exceed seven hundred a year, and when he succeeded to it,
it

it was burthened with his mother's jointure, and the provisions of his three sisters. The utmost œconomy therefore was necessary to preserve it, and at the same time to live in the hospitable and genteel manner in which the family had long lived. But in place of œconomy, the unfortunate young man affected to live up with those of triple his fortune, and entertained at an expence which no man of three thousand a year could have long supported.

FOND of company, and not very nice in the choice of them, his house was constantly thronged, a superb table kept, and the most expensive wines produced to all comers. Many people hurt with the impropriety of his conduct, gave up visiting at his house; it is insulting those upon a footing with ourselves, in respect of birth and fortune, to entertain them in a way they cannot prudently entertain us again. Mr PULLEIN was quickly unable to go to mercat with ready money, nor, as he could not pay regularly, could he long have his provisions from the best hands, or upon the best terms. He was therefore obliged to purchase them where he could, frequently at a great disadvantage. As he never had, nor indeed desired to have an hour to himself, he behoved to trust every thing to servants, both without doors and within; they very naturally followed the dissipated example of their master, and every thing went to wreck. About

a twelvemonth after his father's death, he married a soft good natured girl, very handsome indeed, but who had been taught little but to adorn her own person, and who very unluckily was as fond of company as her husband. Often and often did their relations forewarn them of the folly and danger of such extravagance; but to no purpose; still they would indulge that humour, which has now involved them in ruin—shocking prospect! their creditors in possession of their estate, themselves without credit, their children without bread, their relations ashamed of them, and their familiars avoiding them—He that is not affected with all this, and yet knows himself to be the occasion of it, must be a wretch indeed.

WHEN Mr PULLEIN's circumstances began first to press him, he mortgaged a part of his estate; but he had no sooner got clear of one embarrassment, than he heedlessly run upon another. He repeated these temporary expedients while any body would lend him; and when that could no longer be the case, he applied first to one relation, then to another, for the loan of small sums, till they were all ashamed and wearied of him. He then had recourse to his acquaintance at large, and seemed to think that one who had so many friends could never be at a loss for money—he was fatally mistaken, for few of those who had been so profusely and imprudently entertained by him, would
lend

lend him a single shilling. His mother has been dead some years, but I am sorry to tell you, that his two unmarried sisters have their all in his hands, and therefore are reduced to absolute dependance. My brother hopes to procure for him some little place in the customs, and in the mean time treats his poor family with great humanity. He has settled fifty pounds a year upon the two girls, till it shall be seen how their brother's affairs turn out. How astonishing is it, my JULIE, that men should thus rush upon ruin with their eyes open!—Who that can reckon his ten fingers does not know, that if a man spends three times his yearly income, he must soon become a bankrupt, and yet such is the infatuation of some men, not esteemed fools, that they perceive not this obvious truth——Farewel, let us be careful of the little we have, that we may not distress others.

L E T T E R LXXIV.

To the same.

TUESDAY last we had the honour of a visit from the DUKE and DUTCHESS; perhaps never a man of greater worth, and a woman of greater spirit came together; one is almost sorry that such a pair should grow old. His grace, in all the periods of a long life, has been

H h distinguished

distinguished for his steady and unshaken virtue ; but for nothing more than the pleasure he hath always had in doing good, and the dignity and fortitude of mind with which he hath borne the severest trials in his own family. The example of a dissolute age has never been able to corrupt the purity of his morals ; nor have the illustrious titles to which he succeeded, or the affection and esteem of his sovereign, at all affected the just balance of his mind ; humble, affable, and generous ; the man in the whole island who sets the lowest value upon his own merit. My brother, who lies under great obligations to his grace, venerates him as a parent, and is never happier than in his company. A great intimacy long subsisted between him and my father, which I have heard him say, was never interrupted for a moment. About thirty years ago an estate fell to my mother by the death of a relation ; another claimed it, and the matter was long in Chancery. It was at last finally given for my mother, but appealed to the house of peers ; upon which occasion the DUKE's friendship and interest was of very great service : for though there is no undue influence to be feared in that august assembly, yet very much depends upon the attendance and attention of the lords.

How strongly did my father express his sentiments of the DUKE's character ! what a noble proof did he give of his own, a few days before his death ?

death?—My brother sat by him, my mother and I were in the room—"WILLIAM," said he, "I leave my titles and estate to you with pleasure, nor have I the remotest doubt of your honour in the care of my family. I yield to you the inheritance of our fathers, without any material incumbrance, it has been long in our family, and I could wish it transmitted to your children. I have had some opportunities of enlarging your fortune, but the truth is, I never had it much at heart; why should a man who has enough for all the decent purposes of life, give himself much trouble to acquire more? Besides, I have long thought, that lying in wait to pick up every estate that comes into the market, and purchasing lands at an advanced price, is an inducement to profligates to go on in riot and debauchery, in hopes of a high price at last; if there were fewer buyers, there would of course be fewer sellers. I leave to you an affluent fortune, but I leave it to you on the terms I took it up from my father; these are, that you treat your dependants with humanity, and be the friend of every honest poor man. Your tenants love you, they are all happy, and able to pay their rents; God forbid that any who depend upon us, should want bread, or eat their morsel with sorrow. It is their industry that stamps a value upon our lands; if you check that by severe exactions, you hurt your own interest. I have not the smallest suspicion that this will be the case; I have been at some pains to impress good principles

upon your mind, and have the pleasure to know that I have not laboured in vain: cultivate every generous and humane disposition; in the practice of these only you can be happy.

I HAVE little to say in regard to your private conduct; I have no distrust of you, and therefore need not say much—Your mother is a wise and prudent woman; take her advice in all matters of consequence. With regard to your public conduct, in the service of your country, divest yourself, as much as possible, of all selfish and by-ends; serve your country because you love it; serve it faithfully, that neither your enemies, nor your own heart, may be able to reproach you. Consider the respectable character which the duke of *** has always supported; while he does honour to humanity and his country, keep your eye constantly upon him; be what he is, what he has always been, and you cannot fail of self-approbation, and the esteem of all good men. You are born to great privileges, set a just value upon them; and let it be your ardent wish that they may be transmitted entire to posterity. Your station in life has peculiar advantages, and great honours annexed to it; know their just value; but consider that though a patent may declare, it cannot confer merit. Never let your superiority give pain to a modest man; avoid the littleness of pride, it is the vice of shallow understandings. You will have the honour to be your sovereign's natural counsellor

fellor; you have the happiness to live under a prince of a truly respectable character; copy his example, and do every thing in your power to make that life comfortable, upon which the happiness of so many millions depends. As a member of the legislative body, your fellow subjects must often look up to you for justice; a poor family may be ruined by your inattention or non-attendance.

WHEN you shall think proper to enter into the conjugal state, let virtue be the determining motive in your choice; next to that, good connections are the great article. In your family concerns, peace and oeconomy are all in all; never look for perfect happiness in this world; no man ever found it, no man ever shall. This naturally leads me to say a few words of religion, the distinguishing excellence of rational beings—In the moral powers of our mind we resemble the GREAT SOURCE of being and happiness; and these can only be strengthened and improved by the practice of the moral and religious virtues. I need not now recommend to you the religion of JESUS, I know you set a high and a just value upon it. You know it has a noble tendency to promote the peace and happiness of mankind, and is by no means chargeable with their crimes and follies. Make not an estimate of it from the writings of libertines, but from the purity and excellency of its doctrines and precepts; from the spotless and exemplary life of its founder; and from the effect you observe

serve it to have had upon the minds of good men. That certainly bids fair to be the true religion, which affords a man most comfort in my situation—A christian can leave this world with pleasure; he knows that death cannot hurt his better part, and therefore lifts up his eyes with joy.” These important advices were devoutly listened to, they have been religiously observed my dear brother.

THE DUKE and I had a good deal of conversation about my lord ARNOLD, whom his grace esteems highly. “I have known him long” said he, “and never knew him do a thing unworthy a man of honour, though a thousand which has reproached the general run of his cotemporaries. A great while ago, I knew my lord succeed to an entailed estate of a thousand a-year—the gentleman last in possession of it, left a wife and five daughters, very poorly provided for. My lord generously added a thousand pounds to the portion of each of the girls; and on the mother, whose husband could only give her two hundred a year, his lordship settled an annuity of two hundred more. This generosity was the more remarkable, as the gentleman had been a bad manager, and on many occasions used my lord ill. But no usage could ever divert my lord ARNOLD from that steady course of benevolence which has distinguished his whole life.” Praise, my JULIE, and from such a man, is praise indeed. The life and vigour of the DUTCHESS’s conversation would surprize you:

you: she is so much still, that one can hardly conceive what she has been. She has a noble and independent mind, of which she has given very distinguishing proofs; and a knowlege of the world which has rarely been exceeded.—This letter is a great deal too long—farewel.

L E T T E R LXXV.

To the same.

THE countess and I have absolutely quarrelled to day—I happened to commend a silk which she had lately made up into a negligee and petticoat, and without saying a word, she ordered the fellow of it from the mercer. It is hard, my JULIE, if one cannot commend what she likes, without putting a friend to so much unnecessary expence. I have threatned to depreciate every new thing her ladyship shall purchase hereafter—My brother bid me make myself easy, and he would charge the silk to my account—I humbly thanked his lordship, but told him, that I rather chose to have it stand in my lady's book than in his.

I HAVE just settled accounts with the gardener, in regard to the arbour; and find he has destroyed fifteen moles in my territory, value one shilling each per agreement—don't you think I should have articulated

eled to have the skins?—Every thing comes charmingly forward, and I think by the summer after next, the outer hedge will be high enough to defend it from the stormy winds. The DUTCHESS paid me many compliments on the construction of it, and pointed out some very judicious improvements. Her grace was particularly pleased with my declaration of war against quadrupeds,—“Moles,” she said, “were like enemies at court, they wrought under ground, were well acquainted with the back stairs, and very ill to lay hold of.”

THE School lately established in this parish, for teaching poor girls reading and plain work, thrives apace; every body begins chearfully to contribute to its support. I have a double relation to it, first as a governess, which every lady is who subscribes five guineas; and secondly, as the mistress of it was formerly my maid. She is a careful sensible woman, and like to do much good in her way. The girls are uniformly clothed, and always kept neat and clean. The countess and I generally make them a visit once a week, as the school stands but about half a mile distant; I believe this is well taken by the mistress, and can see that it has a good effect upon the children. It would charm you to see the sweetness and affability of my lady's behaviour to the poor girls; she examines their work, encourages them to do well, and when she observes any of them to have made an uncommon proficiency, often

often makes them some little present, but never in money, which she knows they have no use for, and which therefore might rather hurt them than do them service.

It is certainly a great pleasure to see poor children well cared for, and taught to read and work, who without the friendly aid of others, would have been neglected and brought up in ignorance and idleness. Nor are the advantages arising from such institutions private and local, they spread far and wide in society: girls thus taught and habituated to work, teach their children, and thus the example and instructions of a few, may have a happy influence upon the conduct of thousands to be born ages hence. I should think, my JULIE, that few would scruple to abridge their personal expence a little, to purchase to themselves the greatest of all pleasures, that of doing good to those who cannot help themselves. I have been just interrupted by a card from Mrs TILFIELD, —I must dine with her to day; she writes in a stile not to be denied—she is apprehensive of some danger from a few warm words that past between her husband and another gentleman——Farewel, may God preserve our friends!——

L E T T E R LXXVI.

To the same.

I HAVE been here two days, but how shall I describe the affecting scenes that have past!—the angel of death has marked out this wretched spot as the habitation of woe and misery; a murdered father, a distracted mother; some children dissolved in tears, and others at play insensible of their loss. I am stupid with grief, I am blind with crying—but shall endeavour to give you some account of what has most unfortunately happened to this poor family, so late one of the happiest in the county.

MR TILFIELD had been at a county meeting, where he had some warm words with Mr IBBOT, a gentleman with whom he had lived for several years upon very good terms. The matter about which they differed was of no sort of consequence to either of them, but in the heat of dispute something was said by the one which the other warmly resented. Friends interposed, but without effect: they parted in anger. When Mr TILFIELD came home, his wife could easily observe him uneasy; she enquired the cause and was told it. She knew him to be of a warm temper, and trembled for the consequences. Next day after breakfast a gentleman called
upon

upon him, they stept into the garden ; the gentleman did not return to the house. Mrs TILFIELD durst not ask their business, her soul shuddered at the thoughts of what with too much reason she suspected. She wrote the card mentioned in my last, and sent it by a special messenger, I was with her in less than two hours. Mr TILFIELD had been writing most of the forenoon, and was observed frequently to rise and walk up and down the room with much seeming inquietude. At dinner he affected to be chearful, as usual, but one could easily see that something very perplexing lay at his heart. He would every now and then fix his eyes upon his wife, or some of the children, look at them tenderly for a moment, and then abruptly turn to some other object.

Mrs TILFIELD spoke little till the cloath was taken away, but then bursting into tears, "I ask not," said she, "what past between you, and the gentleman who called after breakfast, my soul too well divines it—O Mr TILFIELD! my husband! my friend! my all!—what have I done? what have your poor children done, that in resentment of a few angry words you would expose us all to ruin?—let me beg of you by every sacred tie, to tell me what now passes in your mind?—have you determined to stake your all, against a dreadful uncertainty? must the peace and happiness, the very being of your family be sacrificed to blind resentment?

Forbid it heaven!—I should not have had the courage to put these questions, but in presence of our mutual friend; you can have no conception of what I now feel. Should your family seem nothing to you, would you bring your mother's gray hairs with sorrow to the grave? you have all your life shown a decent regard for religion, will you now trample upon the cross, and sacrifice to your own angry passions?" "I am charmed with your tenderness, my dear BETSY," said the unfortunate man, "but whence all these alarms; whence all these unkind suspicions? can you or my children ever cease to be dear to me?—'tis true I have been a little disturbed, the mind does not easily digest public affronts—I acknowledge the gentleman's call related to that unlucky affair, but the difference may still be taken away. Nothing but the most cruel necessity shall ever induce me to hazard, for a moment, the peace and happiness of my family. Why is my best beloved thus affected with distant prospects of imaginary distress?—distrust not my prudence, question not my tenderness, nor thus grieve the heart of good lady HARIET"—I repeat not what I said upon the subject, nor what further past among us.

AFTER this conversation there was no room left to doubt of what was in view, and therefore Mrs TILFIELD privately dispatched an express for her brother who lives at twelve miles distance; neither
of

of us, however, suspected the least danger before next morning. About an hour after dinner, Mr TILFIELD stepped into the garden, to look at some men who were cutting a drain, and we saw him from the window, sauntering with them for some time. He had ordered his post chaise to wait for him at a back passage, he quickly stepped into it, and drove off at full speed—Fear has a jealous eye—he was presently mist. How dreadful the situation of his unfortunate wife! how pitiable mine!—The stables were locked—not a servant left in the way—cruel precaution!—The poor woman tore her hair, she rent her clothes, she threw herself on the floor—the children screamed out—they gathered about their mother—she spurned them from her—Good God! what an inconceivable scene of distress was here!—think, my JULIE, what it must have been to support all this for near two hours, and in the dreadful apprehension of still worse to follow.

ABOUT five o'clock one of the children called out, "Papa! papa! the chaise is in sight."—The poor woman sprang from the floor, and without saying a word, quick as lightning flew down stairs—she ran full speed to meet the chaise, which heavily moved along in the front avenue;—she was up with it in a moment—the horses were stopped. When she observed her husband, pale as death, supported by another gentleman, she screamed out, and fell flat

flat upon the earth—the two eldest girls and I were with her in a moment—she was motionless—The unfortunate man, who had received a ball in his left breast, was quite spent with the loss of blood, but on seeing his wife fall, made a feeble effort to get out of the chaise—The other gentleman softly restrained him, as he knew he could not stand upon his legs—He then claspt his hands in one another, dropt his head upon his breast, and expired—I cannot proceed—God preserve us from the dreadful consequences of our own angry passions!—

L E T T E R LXXVII.

To the same.

MRS TILFIELD had come up with the chaise about two hundred yards from the gate—she was carried in, and laid upon a bed—the chaise slowly moved on with the corps of her husband. The dead was decently cared for, but our chief attention was employed about the unfortunate woman. It was about twenty minutes before she gave the least sign of recovery, and when she did, we were more alarmed than ever; she seemed to take no manner of concern in what had happened, but appeared silly, and quite inattentive to every thing around her. A state of mind ten times more affecting than the most acute grief;

grief; for this, time will either moderate, or overcome, but the other often ends in a total suspension of the rational faculties.

SHE was put to bed, and after tossing for some time, fell asleep—she slept four hours, and we hoped to find her greatly refreshed; but when she awoke we had the grief to observe that she continued to talk in the same incoherent way, and took little notice of any body about her. Indeed, my JULIE, I never expect to see her what she was; GOD help her poor children!—The gentleman who came in the chaise with Mr TILFIELD, was a neighbour whom he had appointed to meet him as his second. The moment Mr TILFIELD dropt, that gentleman had the presence of mind to dispatch a servant to his own house, desiring his wife immediately to set out for Mr TILFIELD'S; and very fortunately for me, she arrived but about half an hour later than the chaise. I should not else have had a soul with me but the children—I say not a word of their distress; my heart bleeds but to think of it.

THE unfortunate gentleman was buried yesterday, and several relations of the family are now here. As Mrs TILFIELD begins to mend a little, I hope to get home in a day or two. I had almost forgot to mention one very unlucky circumstance, Mr TILFIELD had made no settlement of his affairs, which must be a disadvantage to his younger children.

dren. I am not at all in the humour of writing a long letter,—let us always remember that true greatness of mind consists in a contempt of all those customs and opinions not founded in reason and common sense.

L E T T E R LXXVIII.

To the same.

WITH how much propriety, my dear JULIE, do the lords of the creation boast of their reason and superior strength of mind?—with how much justice do they look down upon us poor women? when an impertinent word, perhaps from a man whose breeding and understanding they despise, can thus provoke them to shake off all the restraints which religion and the laws of their country lay upon them. What shall we say of this barbarous, this more than Gothic custom, which neither common sense, humanity, nor religion can eradicate? against which the keenest, the most smarting ridicule has been pointed in vain *.

ARE individuals subject to the laws of society, is every man's station assigned him by providence; and shall

* Dialogues of the DEAD——— Dialogue between a Duellist and a North-American Savage.

shall we esteem him a man of honour who subverts established order? shall we reckon him a man of courage who basely deserts his station, and trembles at the breath of fools? The imputation of cowardice can effect no man's real character; a man may have courage to mount a breach, who would not venture to affront his MAKER. Courage, if merely constitutional, is no more a virtue than the strength of a bull; it can only be a virtue when founded upon principle. If order be of GOD, and essential to the peace and happiness of mankind, if it be the very signature of a wise man that he respects the laws of his country, in what rank shall we place him, who to avenge his own quarrel, wrests the sword from the magistrate's hand, and thereby demonstrably shows that he has no reverence for GOD or the laws. Are the injuries he so warmly resents mere punctilios, points of breeding, unnoticed by the laws? Can there be a stronger proof of their insignificance? It is gaming very deep to stake soul and body against a trifle. Our sex, my JULIE, have been long charged with a partiality for this species of madmen, who bravely overleap the bounds of reason and religion. It has been said, that to have killed his man, is a special recommendation to the good graces of some ladies of spirit—Alas! that so vile a reproach should, with any justice, be charged upon a sex whose chief glory is their tenderness and humanity!—Bravery is undoubtedly a virtue; it is glorious to bleed and to die for one's country!—every woman of ho-

nour will despise the wretch, who flinches in the hour of public danger.

BUT what is the idol to which these madmen burn incense? a meer idea, a name, which every scoundrel may subjoin to his designation. In the stile of these gentlemen, the vilest sharpers have been men of honour; wretches who bilk their tradesmen, are men of honour; those who plunder their country, affront their SOVEREIGN, deny their SAVIOUR, and blaspheme their GOD, may be men of honour. But, my JULIE, true courage is, daring to do, amidst the greatest dangers, what a man may do, and ought to do: all beyond this is the thoughtless ferocity of a brute, or the impious effrontery of a madman. Sanguinary laws have been made against duelling, they have generally been evaded; they never will answer the end proposed. Can the fear of death prevent a crime founded in the contempt of death? can a penal statute make that infamous, which custom makes reputable? What would a plain countryman say, were he told, that by the articles of war, it is dismissal from the service to give a challenge, but by custom, infamous to refuse it? what would he say, were he told, that gentlemen subjected to these articles, and sworn to observe them, would sooner quit the service than keep company with a brother officer who had refused to fight a duel, whatever his reasons and motives may have been? what is the plain English of this

this conduct in military men? shortly this, "the sword is your argument, in all cases use it; custom is your superior, dispute not its commands."

A LIEUTENANT of a marching regiment was sued for a trespass before the justices, my uncle was preses, the young man was condemned to pay the damage—he took it in his head that one of the justices had affronted him, and, upon leaving the court, sent him a challenge. The gentleman sent the following answer, much, I think, in the character of a man of honour; "I have received your laconic epistle but have no ambition either to murder you, or to receive that honour from you—you say I affronted you, and desire satisfaction—how jealous you are of that same honour of yours!—where was it, sir, when you trampled under foot so much of the farmer's corns?—where was it when you struck the man by whose industry you are clothed and fed?—Go to school, young gentleman, "a man of honour does as he would be done by."—My sword has been drawn in the cause of my country, my arm can yet wield it; but shall I debase either to correct the impertinence of a boy?—I impute your rashness to the heat of youth, and therefore can forgive it—if you live to my age, you will see things in another light, and look upon the civil law as the highest privilege, even of military men—you will, as formerly, be always welcome to amuse yourself upon my grounds."—

My brother, who hath been all his life an enemy to duelling, never gave a challenge, but hath received two; the first, from a young man of a profligate character, the last year he was at Oxford, to which he sent the following answer—"I have received your message, in consequence of what past between us last night, and hold your understanding in too much contempt to reason the matter further; as to fighting, we are not upon a par, I am the eldest son of a worthy man who has taken great care of my education, and the apparent heir of an old family: you are a younger son of a family you have reproached, and which with much reason hath abandoned you to the natural consequences of your folly and dissipation—if you are wearied of a life for which you ought to blush, there are a thousand ways to get rid of it—I hold you unworthy of any weapon but a cudgel, in that way you may expect correction, when your impertinence shall again provoke me."—The next was from a gentleman, whom in a public company he had severely reprimanded for taking undue liberties with his character; he sent the following answer,—“You must be as conscious of the baseness of your own conduct, as I am of its injustice—I will vindicate mine, in a way you shall feel more severely than the prick of a sword—you have added to your crime, an insult upon the laws of your country—I wear a sword, but never draw it, but in war or self-defence—If
you

you attack me, you will know whether I have skill or courage to use it." —

SHALL I for once turn a projector?—I will, it is in the noble cause of virtue and humanity. I would propose, in the first place, what indeed has often been proposed by others, that the SOVEREIGN should banish from his councils and presence for ever, every man who shall give or accept a challenge, or fight a duel, except it be in the case of a sudden attack, when the principles of self defence must vindicate his conduct. 2. That the ladies in every county and town in Great Britain enter into an association not to keep company with a man who has fought a duel, except in the above case. 3. That every officer in the army who fights a duel, except as above, be reduced for seven years to the station of a private man, if he is not hanged. 4. That every officer who refuses to keep company with another for declining a challenge, shall be broke at the head of his regiment, and declared incapable of future preferment, civil or military. And lastly, That every man convicted of having sent a challenge, or fought a duel in consequence of it, if he kills his antagonist, and receives his majesty's pardon, be obliged, under pain of death, to wear a habit of a particular make and colour, with the words, "A convicted dueller," in capital letters on his back; to the end that all sober minded people may know
and

and avoid him. If my scheme is not a good, it is a short one—Farewel.

L E T T E R LXXIX.

To the same.

A GENTLEMAN dined here the other day who has some turn for poetry, and, after dinner, the conversation turned upon the different versions of the Psalms. The gentleman very justly observed, that devotional compositions should be warmly and clearly express, that they may excite devotion in the mind, and enlighten the understanding, without offending the ear. “But,” said he, “very little regard seems to have been paid to this in most of our metre translations of the Psalms. That of HOPKINS and STERNHOLD which is most generally used, is perhaps of all others the worst; if you except the celebrated passage of which Mr DRYDEN is said to have been so fond,

“The LORD descended from above,
And bow’d the heavens high,
And underneath his feet he put
The darkness of the sky;

On cherubs and on cherubims
Full royally he rode,

And

And on the wings of all the winds
Came flying all abroad."

I say, if we except this, there is scarce another passage in the whole book tolerably expressed. TATE and BRADY's version is unquestionably the best, but it is unequal; how little of it will bear a comparison with Mr ADDISON's hymns, or Mr POPE's Messiah? I could never conceive how a christian congregation could be edified, or their devotion assisted, by such poetry as this,

"A man was famous, and was had
In es-ti-ma-ti-on,
According as he lifted up
His ax thick trees upon *."

And yet this, and many such other passages, are devoutly sung every Sunday in the year, by those who would have great scruple to praise God in the elegant phrase, and sublime sentiments of Mr ADDISON, though confessedly drawn from holy scripture.

I THINK there is much impropriety in confining ourselves to the old testament hymns. Many of them are indeed grand and sublime, but many others seem to have little connexion with the spirit and
genius

* Scotch version.

genius of christian devotion. I have wondered to hear people join so readily in imprecating vengeance upon DAVID's enemies, or the enemies of the Jewish state or church, who, I was sure, understood little of the history of either. Would not people be more edified by singing plain and well expressed paraphrases or translations of holy scripture, expressive of the true spirit and genius of Christianity?—The church of Scotland was so sensible of this, that about twenty years ago, she appointed her different presbyteries, to furnish such translations and paraphrases; in consequence of which appointment, a very pious, and not inelegant collection was published; though so great is the strength of habit and prejudice; that even the occasional use of it has been introduced into very few churches.” The gentleman obliged me with a copy of three small devotional poems, written by a friend of his, which I think have some merit. The first, is a paraphrase, or illustration, of these words, in the second verse of the ninetieth psalm, old translation, “ I will say unto the LORD, thou art my hope, and my strong hold, my GOD, in him I will trust.” The second is a hymn for Good-friday, the third a hymn for Easter-day. I have not leisure now, but shall hereafter send you a copy of each—farewel.

L E T.

L E T T E R LXXX.

To the same.

THE first of the three little poems mentioned in my last, very warmly expresseth the writer's trust in the SUPREME BEING which he founds first upon personal experience, and next upon general observation. By way of illustration he introduces three of the most remarkable interpositions of divine providence which we have upon record; the first, the delivery of the ISRAELITES from their Egyptian bondage the second the escape of the Jews from the snare which the malice of HAMAN had spread for them; and the last, the resurrection; of our SAVIOUR.

“ My GOD ! who from my infant days,
Hast been my faithful guide ;
My GOD ! whose bounty heretofore,
Hath all my wants supplied ;

When with the cares of life oppressd,
To thee I'll speak my grief ;
To thee in all my straits complain,
And humbly hope relief :

L l

How

How oft, when human hopes were gone,
 Hast thou thy strength reveal'd?
 How oft reviv'd the sons of woe,
 Whose souls to thee appeal'd?

When JACOB's sons in slavery groan'd
 Beneath th' Egyptian yoke,
 Thy mighty arm arose to save,
 And soon their fetters broke.

When HAMAN could with impious rage,
 The dire decree record,
 That JUDAH's captive race should fall
 Beneath th' PERSIAN sword:

Thy ever watchful eye preserved
 Thy chosen from the blow,
 The mischief for thy people meant,
 Inverted on their foe.

When JESUS' faithful few, with tears,
 Their mighty loss deplor'd,
 And thought the hopes of ISRAEL's sons
 Were buried with their LORD;

Up flew the adamant gate,
 Which mortal power defies,
 Earth's center trembling heard the voice
 Which bid the SAVIOUR rise!—

Who

Who trusts in thee, no fears can move,
 Him no distress annoys;
 Through all the varying scenes of life,
 He eyes the future joys.

Of this secure, that thou art good,
 Almighty, wise, and just,
 That all things for their bliss conspire,
 Who in JEHOVAH trust."

I THINK in the two last stanzas, there is something very expressive of the settled composure of a good man's mind, under the habitual influence of religion. The truth is, my JULIE, that amidst all the changes and chances of this life, the mind has no sure prop to rest upon, but the divine goodness and veracity. Our health, our friends, the world, life itself fail us, but these endure for ever. When we turn our thoughts backward a hundred or two hundred years, and take a retrospective view of the vices and follies, and busy scenes then carrying on, we can scarce imagine that the people of that period believed themselves mortal. When we reflect upon the present tempers and pursuits of mankind, we do not find them in the least degree more serious. And yet we know, that of the many millions then alive, not one is now upon earth; we know, that in little more than a hundred years hence, the whole of the present generation will be reduced to dust. Let us, therefore, bear the common accidents of life

without repining; they will soon be over, and the same to us, as if they had never been. Farewel, my JULIE,—love me, and be happy.—

L E T T E R LXXXI.

To the same.

I Now transcribe for you the hymn for Good-Friday, a day ever to be gratefully remembered by Christians.

“ For you, ye favour’d sons of men,
The anguish and distress
The SAVIOUR bore, nor thought can grasp,
Nor human tongue express.

For you, though God’s eternal son,
A servant’s form he bore,
For you, though prince of life, he died—
Fall prostrate and adore!

For you, his inoffensive hands
With galling cords were bound,
For you, his blessed head with thorns
Contemptuously was crown’d.

Struck and defil’d the gracious face,
Which heavenly hosts adore,

The

The scoffs and scorn of wicked men,
For you, he calmly bore.

Though late his timid judge declar'd,
No fault in him he found,
Behold the horrid lash lift up—
No pitying eye around!

He bends beneath the heavy load,
He bears the curst tree!—
He stoops—he faints!—alas! my soul!
He bore that load for thee!—

Ah! hark!—they drive the cruel mill!—
Each vein distended see!
Down flows the warm, the precious blood;—
Ungrateful man for thee!—

Hell, sin, and death, unite their bands,
The powers of darkness rage,
They dread their more than mortal foe,
Yet vainly dare engage.

Collected in himself, he darts—
The light'ning from his eye.
They feel the God!—give up the field—
And routed, trembling fly.

" 'Tis finished!" said the mighty chief,
" And death shall reign no more!—

He

He bows the head—gives up the ghost!—
Let heaven and earth adore!—

Earth to its center shook, and hell
Deep felt the deadly wound;
From heaven, like lightning, Satan fell,
And plung'd in depths profound."

I KNOW not, my JULIE, how you may like this little poem, but I think it is the most picturesque and affecting description of the dismal scene that I have met with. I recollected having read an excellent paper upon this subject, in the Spectator, and upon turning to the book, found it in the fifth volume, No. 356. After I have mentioned that discourse, I will not presume to add a single reflection—Farewel.

L E T T E R LXXX.

To the same.

THE poem, my dear JULIE, which I now transcribe for you, is quite the reverse of the last; it is the bright side of the scene; the sun of righteousness was then eclipsed, or rather, to human appearance, set in darkness; he now shines gloriously, and will shine forever.

Hymn

HYMN for EASTER-DAY

**" Ten thousand thousand sons of light
Bend forward from the skies,
And joyous smiles the happy morn
That sees the SAVIOUR rise!**

**Throughout th' unbonded realms of bliss,
Swift flies the wond'rous tale,
And downward from the throne of God,
Does festal joy prevail.**

**" Him worship, thrones, dominions, powers,"
The SIRE of all begun,
" This day exalted in my might,
Is mine eternal SON."—**

**Thrones, pow'rs, dominions, prostrate fall,
And willing homage pay
In awful silence—" LORD of all!
Thee, all thine hosts obey."**

**A seraph sweeps his golden lyre,
And myriads join the song,
" Pow'r, might, dominion, endless praise,
To thee, O LORD belong!**

**Let heav'n and earth, and all their hosts,
A willing tribute bring,**

For

For thou, throughout creation, LORD !
Art universal KING !

The SAVIOUR died, but, O ye powers !

What wonders hath he done !

His right hand and his holy arm,

The victory hath won.

He died, ye favoured sons of men !

With grateful hearts adore !

He lives ! — let heav'n and earth rejoice !

He lives, to die no more !

I could wish, my JULIE, that gentlemen, who have a turn for poetry, would sometimes amuse themselves by writing little things of this kind, and give copies of them that they might be preserved. One should think it would give great pleasure to a well disposed mind, to reflect that his amusements may be useful to others, when his own name and memory are forgotten. Farewel.

L E T T E R LXXXII.

To the same.

WHEN I was last at my lord ARNOLD's I became acquainted with the lady from whose house I now write; she is a relation of my lord's,

lord's, and justly high in his esteem. I have got into a way of remarking upon the conduct and characters of those I visit, and you are always kind enough to excuse my impertinence. I shall only say of myself, that I had much rather commend than blame. Mrs WOODVILLE has been about eight years a widow, and seems in no haste to come again under the conjugal yoke. She has two sons, now at Oxford, and three lovely daughters; the eldest, about eighteen, the other two, each, a few years younger. Mr WOODVILLE left to his eldest son an estate of three thousand a year, and to his younger children, very genteel provisions. As he had great confidence in his wife's virtue and prudence, he intrusted her with the sole care and management of his family and fortune, till she should marry again, or her eldest son come of age.

In consequence of this trust, she has managed matters very much upon her husband's plan, and taken all possible care of the education of her children. For her sons she kept a tutor in the family till they were fit for the university, where he still attends them; and for the young ladies, besides the utmost attention on her own part, she retained for several years, a gentlewoman extremely well qualified for forming their minds to the love of virtue; as well as for instructing them in every genteel accomplishment. The lady has many excellent qualities; discreet, sensible, and humane;

very attentive to the concerns of her family, and yet always at leisure to oblige her friends with the best grace imaginable. She has many relations, and good connexions in the neighbourhood, with all whom she lives upon the best terms. Being of a social disposition, she rarely wants company, who indeed are no trouble to her, as she stately keeps a well furnished table, and makes it a rule to mind business, be with her who will. Miss WOODVILLE has a fine person, a very graceful mien, and what you will think of much greater consequence, a good understanding. The second girl, though pitted with the small pox, is very agreeable, and with a good share of wit and humour, the best natured creature upon earth; she sometimes jestingly says, the small pox taught her an useful lesson, to take care of her inside. The third is a blooming lovely girl, blest with every amiable quality, and distinguished for her skill and accuracy at the needle.

DULY sensible of what they owe to so good a mother, they hold her in the highest esteem, and would not, for any consideration, do or say a thing which they thought would give her pain. They never need to ask a thing useful or convenient for them; her prudence and affection always prevents their desires. As her authority never prest them, their obedience is hearty and sincere; they look upon the lady not more as their mother than friend, and therefore have no reserves with her. It is a rule, that
one

one of them shall, in her turn, superintend the interior affairs of the family; examine the house-keeper and butler's weekly accounts, and enter them in a book, which, with the vouchers, where these are necessary, is put into their mother's hands every Monday after breakfast, to be re-examined. That she may be well served, Mrs WOODVILLE pays her servants the highest wages, and if any of them are detected in the overcharge of an article purchased, in wasting the provisions, or in any other gross neglect of duty, they are dismissed from her service, and can have no character, unless they chuse to have the reason of their dismissal express in it. She has, however, but rarely the distress of parting with her servants, for knowing that their conduct comes thus under a double review, they are uncommonly exact and careful. Some, my JULIE, may think this minute proceeding troublesome, and rather below the notice of a lady of fortune.—Let me tell you they greatly misjudge the matter; a little habit makes the thing agreeable, and besides the pleasure of keeping servants careful and honest, considerable sums may be saved in this way: Mrs WOODVILLE told me, that in one week, she detected her butler in an overcharge of three pounds. Besides, how foolish must a young lady look, who marries into a gentleman's family, if she cannot direct and oversee the management of it. I believe we shall continue here for some days. Farewell!—

L E T T E R LXXXIII.

To the same.

YOU wish, my dear JULIE, to have more particulars of the amiable young ladies—I can refuse you nothing. Every hour of their time is appropriated to some useful purpose; they rise regularly at six in summer, and seven in winter. After their private devotions, which from early infancy they have been strictly kept to, they walk, if the morning is fair, till half an hour after seven, then work till nine, when they breakfast. From breakfast till twelve, they work, then walk till one, when they come in to dress for dinner; from dinner they work till five, then drink tea, and in summer walk till seven; from this till supper, they read, play a tune on the harpsichord, or amuse themselves with a game at cards. They sup at nine, and after supper, till eleven, when they go to bed, read history, travels, letters, or any entertaining new book that comes out.

BUT what above all things charms me, is the chastity and solidity of their conversation, one shall rarely hear a word of dress or fashions; what clothes this or that lady wore at church, or how they became her—they have nothing of that silly insignificant

can'tattle which some young people so much indulge, and yet they affect not a gravity of stile or manner above their years; in one word, they have been taught to think and to speak with propriety and elegance. An absent character is rarely mentioned but with decency and respect; an exceptionable one was introduced into conversation the other day, when miss WOODVILLE very sensibly observed, "that as people would be happy were they never to hear of such characters, little good could come of talking of them." Their mother very early pointed out to them some papers in the Spectator, peculiarly proper for their perusal, one of which is read every day after breakfast, and on Saturday morning, always one of the Saturday papers. By so frequently reading these, and hearing them read, you would be amazed to observe with how much ease and propriety they can express themselves upon the different subjects treated of. The second girl, who makes very free with her own face, regrets exceedingly that she was not born before the conclusion of the last century, as she would have certainly stood a candidate for being admitted sempstress to the ugly club—so easy does the loss of beauty fit upon a sensible mind.

Mrs WOODVILLE, who is herself a woman of real piety, has been at infinite pains to impress upon the minds of her children just notions of religion. She taught them early to conceive aright of their dependance

dependance upon God, and their unceasing obligations to him; that their happiness here and hereafter absolutely depends upon a careful and conscientious imitation of the divine perfections, and that the external means of religion are no further useful than as they serve to induce virtuous tempers. To give them a just notion of the origin of false religion, and of the progressive openings of the true, she made them read the bishop of Meaux's introduction to universal history; after which she put into their hands GROTIVS on the truth of the christian religion, ANDERSON'S evidences, and the bishop of London's four pastoral letters. On Sundays, part of our SAVIOUR'S sermon upon the mount, with doctor CLARK'S paraphrase is always read by one of the young ladies; and if the weather is not uncommonly bad, the whole family attend their parish church which is about a mile distant. While I am upon the subject of religion, it may be proper to mention, what I think a very commendable peculiarity in Mrs WOODVILLE'S temper with regard to the poor; tho' I think it is scarce possible for one to feel more for them than she does, yet she never gives to common beggars, nor suffers them to get any thing at her house. To hold to this resolution, she says, cost her a great deal, but to see a human being so low degraded by his vices or his wants, as to be obliged to beg a mouthful of bread from his fellow creature, was to her quite insupportable. She often repeats a fine sentiment

sentiment upon this subject from the Spectator, "that it is equally a reproach to society a poor man should be unrelieved, or a poor rogue unpunished." How unjustly would the world conclude from this, that Mrs WOODVILLE was uncharitable? quite the reverse—she not only gives liberally to public charities, but makes it a rule; that no poor person or family in her neighbourhood shall want the necessaries of life, so far as her ability or influence can prevent it. Her example has had a happy effect; for scarce a beggar is to be seen, and therefore the native poor of the parish are not supplanted by idle vagrants from a distance; which in most other parishes is too much the case. Farewel!

L E T T E R LXXXIV.

To the same.

YOU envy me the happiness of such agreeable company—I could heartily wish you made us one more. "You wish to know in what kind of work the miss WOODVILLES employ themselves."—be informed. In the morning they sew, and in the forenoon spin fine flax; after dinner they employ themselves in shell work, drawing, painting flowers, landscapes, or the like light amusements. Each of them has a small wheel which is tied to her waste by

a ribbon, and you would scarce believe what a quantity of yarn they produce weekly from this pretty machine; it is a point of honour who shall spin most, and best, and for sometime after they begun, was rewarded by an honorary premium. All of them have caps and ruffles purchased with money of their own earning; and last year they made a piece of cloth worth seven shillings a yard, which was printed and made up into three gowns for themselves. Here, my JULIE, suffer me to make one reflection—The right employment of time is a very important lesson; the woman who has been taught it, will seldom be troubled with vapours and low spirits.

MR WOODVILLE left a well chosen library, in which there was not a single volume offensive to decency and religion; he was a man of sense, and well aware of the danger of such writings. If at any time, from mere curiosity, he chose to look into a new book of a suspicious character, if he disliked it, he took care never to make a property of it. Mrs WOODVILLE, though a woman of taste, rarely buys a book till she has first had a good character of it from some person upon whose judgment she can depend, or till she has seen it mentioned with approbation, in the periodical papers. No book is put into the library, nor suffered to come into the hands of the young ladies, till their mother has first glanced it over; indeed they have such a veneration for

for her judgement, that they care not to read a book till she has given her opinion of it. If she observes any exceptionable passages in a book, upon the whole useful, she points them out, with their impropriety and dangerous tendency; and thus forewarned, her daughters read the work with safety and advantage.

SHE is a great admirer of Mr POPE, and has taught her daughters to set a just value on his writings; though, at the same time, she condemns the levity of some of his juvenile pieces, such as his *Wife of Bath*, his *January* and *May*, &c. These, she observes, are more than pardonable in a youth, but unworthy a place among others which do so much honour to virtue and human nature. She regards SWIFT as a great genius and patriot, but had he been less Mr POPE's friend, the indelicacy of his verses, and his unaccountable treatment of the accomplished STELLA would have precluded his works from the honour of a place in her library. MILTON and THOMSON, SHENSTON and GRAY, she warmly recommends to the young ladies, as safe and agreeable companions in their leisure hours; the works of these authors, she observes, are gold without alloy, ever friendly to the interests of virtue, and never to be read without pleasure and advantage. Miss WOODVILLE is so fond of the *Seasons*, that she can repeat the most beautiful passages in them from memory. She has a charming

ear, and, I think, the sweetest and most harmonious voice I have ever heard: with what grace and propriety, with what ineffable delight does she repeat the beautiful story of LAVINIA!—But yesterday, I begged her to repeat the affecting episode of CELADON and AMELIA, which I certainly never shall again—it was quite insupportable.—So tenderly! so feelingly! did she express every sentiment, that I could think of nothing the whole day, but the unutterable anguish of the amiable youth. She often repeats the following fine passage from Winter, which her mother made her get by heart, when too young sufficiently to relish it,

“FATHER of light and life! thou GOOD SUPREME!

O teach me what is good! teach me THYSELF!
 Save me from folly, vanity, and vice,
 From every low pursuit; and feed my soul
 With knowledge, conscious peace, and virtue pure;
 Sacred, substantial, never-fading bliss!”

AKENSIDE is the second girl's favourite poet, which you will say shows no bad taste; she rarely stirs abroad without the Pleasures of the Imagination in her pocket; though were the work lost, I believe she could supply by much the greatest part of it from memory. She had been confined to the house for some days before I came here, with a severe cold, and sore throat, and did not venture
 abroad

abroad till Monday; her two sisters and I walked with her in the garden, when she charmingly repeated these beautiful lines,

“ ——— The various lot of life
Oft from external circumstance assumes
A moment's disposition to rejoice
In those delights which at a different hour
Would pass unheeded. Fair the face of spring,
When rural songs and odours wake the morn,
To every eye; but how much more to his
Round whom the bed of sickness long diffus'd
Its melancholy gloom ! how doubly fair,
When first with fresh-born vigour *he* inhales
The balmy breeze, and feels the blessed sun
Warm at his bosom, from the springs of life
Chacing oppressive damps and languid pain ! ”

L E T T E R LXXXV.

To the same.

MRS WOODVILLE has a select collection of the best dramatic authors, and few women read a play with more grace and propriety. She frequently reads one in a rainy forenoon, while the young ladies are at work by her, and as she is a thorough judge of the propriety of sentiment and charzter, if any thing hurts her, she is sure to put

a stigma upon it. She is extremely fond of SHAKESPEAR, whom she admires for his vast genius, unbounded imagination, and great knowledge of human nature; but frequently regrets the wretched taste of the age in which he wrote, which obliged him to exhibit so many low characters, and to throw into others, which he must have despised, a degree of honest pleasantry, which has a tendency to take off from the horror and turpitude of their vices. She compares this great writer to a philosopher willing to instruct mankind, who rather than not reform them, would sometimes put on the fool's coat, and fall into their humours. Her second daughter has written on a waste leaf in the first volume, the following noble and picturesque character of him from the Pleasures of the Imagination,

“ ————— when light'ning fires
 The arch of heav'n, and thunders rock the ground;
 When furious whirlwinds rend the howling air,
 And ocean, groaning from the lowest bed,
 Heaves his tempestuous billows to the sky;
 Amid the mighty uproar, while below
 The nations tremble, SHAKESPEAR looks abroad
 From some high cliff, superior, and enjoys
 The elemental war.”

SHE is a woman of a chearful temper, and fond of good comedy, but regrets exceedingly that so very few of our English comedies may be safely read by a
 woman

woman of virtue. The Careless Husband, the Confiscious Lovers, and a few more excepted, she thinks it would be no great loss to the interests of virtue, if all the rest were annihilated. She thinks it extremely reproachful to her country, that the loose and indelicate scenes of *FANQUHAR* and *CENTLIVRE* are so oftentimes represented to crowded audiences, while the chaste and elegant compositions of *MOLIERE* would scarce be endured.

I THINK I hinted before, that Mrs WOODVILLE fees a good deal of company—you would be charmed to observe with what ease and good breeding she treats her guests; and in what a modest and genteel manner the young ladies conduct themselves upon all occasions. As their mother has an absolute confidence in their virtue and prudence, she lays them under no restraints, nor keeps them from any public place or company where they may decently appear. She observes, very justly, that the strongest security of a woman's honour, is good sense and good principles; where these are, there is seldom great danger; and where they are not, locks and bars are easily eluded. When I speak of principles, I recollect a book which Mrs WOODVILLE put into my hands yesterday, with the highest eulogiums of the author and his work; the title of it is, *AN ESSAY ON TRUTH*. I told her I had an utter aversion to metaphysics, and would not look into it—"You must," said she, "metaphysics are the
issue

issue of the brain, but every line of this gentleman's book proceeds from the heart. He feels, he warmly feels for virtue, and as a friend of virtue, I call upon your ladyship to read the book, and support the author's argument." I could not resist such a delicate call, and this morning read the introduction, and part of the first chapter. I can easily see that the writer is a man of genius, and a good heart, warmly interested in an excellent cause, which he nobly defends.—I weary you, my dear JULIE, beyond sufferance—farewel! love me, and be happy!——

L E T T E R LXXXVI.

To the same.

THOUGH my lord and lady ARNOLD left this place on Tuesday, I could not resist the warm solicitations of the ladies to stay a few days longer. We were yesterday to see a gentleman in this neighbourhood, where we staid all night, and I scarce remember to have past a day more disagreeably: the whole family were so officiously obliging, that there was no bearing it. When we alighted from the coach we were carried into a parlour, and as it had rained a little, our landlady could not be persuaded that we had not caught cold; she therefore insisted that we should taste of an excellent

lent stomachic cordial, of her own preparation, which we were assured, was an excellent repellent. It was in vain to object—the bottle was instantly produced. Mrs WOODVILLE tasted of it, and having an aversion to every thing of the kind, soon after found herself uneasy, and begged to be shown into a bed-chamber.

THE landlady seemed a good deal alarmed, and getting up took Mrs WOODVILLE under the arm to support her—Miss WOODVILLE followed. Though the day was close and warm, yet in respect of the damp air, a fire was put on in the room; the window curtains were close drawn, and quietness and blood-
ing seriously recommended——“ Fevers were common—two or three in the neighbourhood had lately died of them—people could not be too cautious—at any rate there could be no harm in opening a vein.” Mrs WOODVILLE endeavoured to persuade the good woman that there was no manner of danger, and that she was only a little squeamish, perhaps occasioned by the jolting of the coach. “ I will,” said she, “ just throw myself upon the bed for a quarter of an hour, when I imagine I shall be as well as ever.”—The landlady shook her head—broad hints were given her to leave the room; but these she understood not, or imputed to an over-delicacy in her guest——“ she was determined to see the lady better, or blooded before she left her.” My friend called for a glass of spring water, and begged that
one

one of the fishes might be thrown up. She was indulged in the first, on condition that she would take a little stockton in it; the last was as much as her life was worth, and therefore could not be complied with. Thus she was teized, and crost, and plagued for half an hour; when after pretending to have slept for about ten minutes, she declared she was perfectly well, and desired to rejoin the company. Then the great virtues of the cordial were extolled; and, to save its honour, the landlady declared that she had frequently known it produce the same effect in stomachs not accustomed to it.

It is hard to say whether we suffered most at dinner from the gentleman, his wife, or an old maiden lady their relation. Unfortunately there were many good things at table, and we were prest beyond measure to eat of each; perhaps this might have been complied with, but it was impossible to devour a full plate of every dish. If we did not eat up all, we eat nothing—"The dish was not to our taste," and many apologies were made. We had not the liberty to chuse either what we should eat, or what we should drink; if we call'd for a glass of Madeira, presently after we must take a glass of white Port, which had been twelve years in the cellar. In one word, from the manner of our landlord and landlady, one would have been almost tempted to believe, that they held eating and drinking a great deal, to be first rate qualities. Mrs

WOODVILLE,

WOODVILLE, on account of a pain in her stomach, never exceeds two dishes of tea in an afternoon; our landlady drinks a great deal, and you cannot imagine how unhappy the good woman was, when she could not prevail upon her guest to bear her company. She assured her the tea was good, and that there could be no danger in drinking largely, if she would but eat a little bread, and take plenty of milk to it. When conducted to our bed-chambers, the blankets were turned down, to convince us that the bed and sheets had been sufficiently warmed—they had indeed been rather over-toasted. We were assured that the house should be kept quiet, and intreated not to stir before nine in the morning. "Pardon me, madam," said Mrs WOODVILLE, "I never lie a bed after six in summer, and seven in winter." This introduced a conversation on the danger of damps and early fogs, which I believe might have lasted till three o'clock, had not my friend pretended to be half convinced, and promised to ly till eight. All this notwithstanding, the people are, on many accounts, respectable. We left them this morning, after breakfast.

THIS foible, which we now but rarely meet with, is certainly founded in friendship and hospitality, and we can scarce be angry at what we know to be well meant. I cannot, therefore, but blame the reprimand which a blunt country gentleman gave to a lady who prest him to eat more than he chose,—

○ ○

" Why

“ Why should I eat to hurt myself, madam, are there no poor people in the parish to eat up what remains?” I think a gentleman disengaged himself with a better grace, by saying to a lady, who put a whole tart upon his plate, and insisted that he should eat it up, “ I really cannot, madam, but if you will excuse me the half of this, I shall put two whole ones in my pocket.” If at any time pressing to eat and drink be excusable, it is when we entertain those of an inferior station, or young people who have been little in company. These may be sometimes so much dashed and overawed, as to deny themselves the necessary quantity. But if grown up people, who have seen company, will decline what is agreeable to them, they deserve no sympathy. If in a friend’s house we can go out and in as at home, be in the public room, or in our bed-chamber as we chuse, then we live at our ease, and give no body unnecessary trouble; but to see a whole family taken up about one, is extremely disgusting Farewel, my JULIE,—I am sensible that this is a very dull letter, but I really could not restrain myself from animadverting upon a weakness which I know has given pain to many.

L E T.

L E T T E R LXXXVII.

To the same.

A MAIDEN lady, a relation of Mrs. Wood-
VILLE's, has been here for some days, who
for the first forty years of her life had only a
thousand pounds fortune; upon the interest of
which she made a shift to live in a very decent way.
Her money could be no temptation, and as she is ra-
ther hard favoured, no suitable offers of marriage
had been made, when in her forty-third year she
succeeded to ten thousand pounds, by the death of
an only brother in the Canaries. As she is a sensi-
ble woman, and past the levities of youth, this large
addition to her fortune made no manner of odds in
the temper and disposition of her mind: her former
friends are her friends still. She has rented a larger
house, and sees them oftner, but has made few new
ones. She kept a maid before; another maid, and
a boy in livery, is all her additional expence in ser-
vants. She is a woman of a social temper, and never
affected to despise the married state; it therefore
was not doubted but she would yet marry, if a suit-
able offer came in her way.

THE woman who, at eighteen, had no charms with one thousand pounds, had a great many at three and forty, with eleven; a house better furnished, and more money in one's purse, throws a glory around her, and gives an air of dignity to every thing she says or does. Several gentlemen made their addresses to the lady in the first year of her elevation; and among others, one much about her own time of life, a bachelor, possessor of a very good estate, and of an unblameable character, boasting only, that he was rather too fond of money. She listened to his proposals, and in consequence, a communing of friends ensued. What annuity the lady was to have in case she survived her husband, and what the provisions of the younger children should be, were points easily settled; but the great question was, Whether the property of her money should remain in her own person, or be transferred, in all events, to her apparent husband?—Mr WOODVILLE, who was then alive, and the lady's other relations present, thought it reasonable, that children or no children, the gentleman should have the life-rent of her whole fortune; but insisted that the property of it should remain in her own person, to be disposed of as she thought proper. They had powers to admit of no medium, and therefore the meeting broke up without settling any thing.

NEXT

Next day miss VERNER sent a card to the gentleman, inviting him to dinner, and intimating that she had asked some friends to be present, with a view to have matters finally settled. The card was most agreeable—a happy issue of the affair was no longer doubted. All the gentlemen asked were present; when after dinner, the lady thus address her apparent husband—“ Though previous to nuptial contracts a communing of friends is usual, I think, sir, where the parties are subject to no controul, as is the case with you and me, the preliminary articles fall naturally to be settled by themselves. I am sorry, therefore, that in pure conformity to custom, we should have given our relations any trouble. Neither you, nor I, sir, want a little money to help us to live, each of us has a genteel competency. It would seem that both of us had a taste for social life, why else would you have made up to me?—upon what principle besides could I have listened to your addresses? Had your character and connexions been just what they are, I think it would have made no great odds to me though you had not been possesst of a hundred pounds in the world; judge then how much I must be hurt, to find my person of so little account with you, that you will only accept of it upon terms to which I cannot agree, without forfeiting the esteem of my relations, and giving up all pretensions to delicacy and common sense. I desire not the property of your estate; what better title have you to insist upon

upon the property of mine? I am neither surprized nor angry, to find you act so much in the spirit of the times; but, sir, your conduct has convinced me, that women cannot be too jealous of their property, as their persons are of so little account. I expected no paradise, and therefore can the more easily bear a disappointment; I need not to barter my fortune for a larger annuity, and therefore must desire to see you no more, in the quality of a suitor."

THE gentleman would have gladly compounded matters, but miss VERNEY would not hear a word more on the subject. It is about twelve years since this happened, and she is still mistress of her person and fortune. She is a very agreeable woman, and, I am told, does a great deal of good in the neighbourhood where she lives, which is about twenty miles west of this. Several gentlemen have since made up to her, but though she received their addresses politely, she would never enter upon terms, nor expose herself to a second mortification. About four years ago she purchased an estate of about three hundred a year, with a genteel house upon it, where she lives in the most hospitable manner, and generally has with her three or four young ladies, her relations or neighbours. I am told, she intends to settle her whole fortune for the support and perpetual maintainance of unmarried gentlewomen, upward of forty years of age, who have been educated

educated in a genteel way, and may not have wherewithal decently to keep themselves. Such a plan, my JULIE, properly digested, and put in execution, would, I think, be an act of great humanity. For not to mention the contempt which the unfeeling world too generally expresses for old maids, how hard must it be upon a poor woman, who has lived in affluence in the early part of her life, to have scarce the common necessaries in her old age!—to be obliged to do the meanest offices,—to have nobody to shut her eyes, when death at once puts an end to her sorrows and her life!—Farewel, my dear JULIE,—love me, and be happy!—

L E T T E R LXXXVIII.

To the same.

A GENTLEMAN and his lady, in this neighbourhood, dined here yesterday, with whose character I must make you acquainted; I know you will thank me for it. Would to GOD, such characters were more common!—His father, with an estate of two thousand a year, had been long in straitened circumstances; he succeeded to the fortune early in life, and gave so little attention to his affairs, that he was soon under the necessity of mortgaging a great part of his estate, not upon the best terms. To have sold part of it outright, and retrenched his

his expence, might have made him easy; but family pride with-held him from the first, his follies were become too habitual to permit the last. He went on, therefore, in the same thoughtless course, till at last, he had scarce a hundred a year, over paying interest of money and taxes.

His wife, a woman of great worth, had long, without effect, remonstrated against the errors in his conduct—she fell into a declining state of health, sickened, and died. She left him three sons and five daughters. The eldest girl was about eighteen, and so carefully educated, that she was sufficiently qualified to take upon her the charge of the family. His eldest son had got an ensignie in a marching regiment; the second was apprentice to an attorney, the youngest to a silk mercer. One would have thought, that the death of his wife, and being left with such a family, would have made the unfortunate man think at last; but he was become so thoroughly dissipated, that nothing could awaken him to a sense of his danger. Very luckily for his family, he died about six months after his wife. His eldest son, the subject of this letter, is a man of a very different disposition; from what he early observed of his father's conduct, he could easily see that every thing would go to wreck; and therefore, from the day he entered into the army, he resolved to guard against those vices and follies which he saw were to cost his father so dear. He behaved with great deference

deference and respect to his superior officers, strictly attended to the duties of his place, and made it a rule to live within his pay. The last was impossible upon any other plan but strict oeconomy, but this, to a mind determined upon independance, was no hard choice. When the regiment was in quarters, he breakfasted and supd in his own room, dined at an ordinary, and never spent a penny that he could genteelly save. Determined to avoid every mode of extravagance, he never would make one at a party of pleasure; nor upon any occasion exceed half a bottle of wine. This, for some time, exposed him to the jest and contempt of some young officers who had more money than brains, but he had the resolution and good sense to despise them in his turn. While he had a penny candle, a fire, and a book in his own room, he envied no man's enjoyments. He was a hard student in the military art, and soon became so thoroughly acquainted with the discipline, and evolutions of a regiment, that he was much taken notice of by his superiors, and highly commended for his diligence and attention; indeed they shewed their opinion of him by more than words, for on the preferment of a lieutenant, he got the commission, though there were two older ensigns in the regiment.

When his father died, it was the opinion of his relations that the estate should be sold; in which case they hoped there would still be a tolerable

provision for the younger children, and at least as much reversion as would purchase a company for his eldest son. The young gentleman, however, wished, if possible, to save part of the estate: he could live without drawing a shilling from it, and, from his experience, knew the great importance of savings. His brothers and sisters being young, wanted little but subsistence, and of his eldest sister's prudence and oeconomy he had the highest opinion. He knew that several of the mortgages were for a term of years, and therefore justly concluded they would be a bar to the sale of the estate, at least to its fetching a good price. Perhaps the only wise thing that ever his father did, was the inclosing and subdividing a large farm contiguous to his house, and stocking it well with all kinds of wood. As this had been done in the early part of his life, and the fences pretty well cared for, a great deal of the timber was fit for cutting; a resource of which his father would have availed himself, had not an uncommon fondness for growing trees restrained him. This farm, consisting of about five hundred acres, arable, had, for many years, been worth nothing to the gentleman's family: he kept a large stock of horses and horned cattle, was nice in his brood, and stuck so much to a price, that few could deal with him. The over-quantity upon his pasture eat him up in summer, and in winter he rarely had provisions for two thirds of his stock. Many of them died, through meer want and neglect; add to all this, that

that he always kept a great number of servants, who scarce raised from the farm sufficient to feed and pay themselves.

THE first thing the young gentleman did after his father's burial, was to take an exact inventory of his effects within doors and without; upon all which he had a value put by men of skill. He next collected, in the best manner he could, an account of his debts, and of the arrears due upon the estate; the first were very considerable, the last did not amount to much, as his father's circumstances had obliged him to keep the tenants to their duty. In examining the mortgages he could easily see that great advantages had been taken; particularly, that his father's steward, for the advance of eight hundred pounds, had got a mortgage, for thirty years, of lands which could have been let for seventy pounds *per annum*. Having taken a general view of his matters, he was convinced that, by prudent management, a great part of the estate might be saved; and therefore proposed that his sister should continue to keep house, and take the oversight of the small farm he intended to keep in his own hand. To this the young lady readily agreed, as she had her brother's interest much at heart; and bid him rest satisfied, that she would look strictly after the lowest article on the farm.

P P 2

THIS

THIS point settled, he let, for three years ploughing, about four hundred acres of the farm, which, as the lands were long rested and in good heart, brought him forty shillings the acre. The other hundred acres, with the pasture grounds, he resolved to keep in his own management. Every one of his father's servants were dismissed; two men and a boy, and a couple of maids, were thought sufficient for the future, and these were specially recommended by a relation in the neighbourhood. He had observed that corn farms are attended with an immense expence, and seldom profitable in a gentleman's occupation. He therefore proposed to raise no more grain than should be necessary for the family and working cattle; and if any profit could be made, he thought it was more likely to arise from a small dairy, which would fall naturally under his sister's management. Having therefore sold off his stock of cattle, and a great many articles which he had no occasion for, he purchased twelve cows, of the best kind, and hired a skilful dairy-maid to look after them. He put them upon good pasture, and gave orders to save hay, and raise a sufficient stock of cabbage and turnip for their winter and spring food.

By the sale of timber, cattle, plate, and other articles, he raised about twelve hundred pounds, which he immediately applied in extinction of his father's most pressing debts; and in this way, a benevolent

valent relation, who had the command of money, enabled him to go a good deal further. Every creditor was charmed with the young gentleman's conduct, every good man ready to support him. Having thus far settled matters he rejoined his regiment, and applied himself with the same diligence to the duties of his station. This letter is a great deal too long, yet I have not been able to include all I meant to say—farewel!—

L E T T E R LXXXIX.

To the same.

YOU are impatient for the sequel of my last— I proceed to gratify your curiosity. Captain WILTON's sister, had the greatness of mind; for such, my JULIE, I must be excused to call it; to renounce every vanity, and to deny herself to almost every amusement, with the laudable view of saving her brother's fortune. She kept the younger girls constantly employed, had a strict eye over the servants, and in the oeconomy of the family was quite exemplary. When any of their relations or neighbours were to see them, she had always plenty of good things, every thing clean and neat, the best malt liquor any where to be seen, and a bottle of wine, when it was proper to produce it. At a manufacturing town about two miles distant, there
was

a ready sale for every article produced from the farm, and her butter and cheese had such a character, that the highest price was cheerfully paid for them. She cleared from her twelve cows, thirty pounds the first year, besides rearing eight calves. In one word, besides keeping the family, the profits of the reserved farm were worth fifty pounds a-year to her brother.

THIS, with the four hundred a-year which he had for the part of it he had let for three years, and what little of the estate his father had in possession at his death, were such immense savings, that in four or five years his affairs began to assume a very different appearance. Several mortgages were redeemed, no creditor desired to have his money paid. About two years after his father's death, a captain in the regiment who chose to retire, entered into articles with Mr WILTON, to whom he got his company transferred. He continued in the army about five years longer, when he sold out, married, and settled upon his estate; where he now lives happily with an agreeable woman, universally respected in the neighbourhood. To his brothers and sisters, especially her to whom he owed so much, he has acted the kindest and most generous part. She, and other two of the ladies are since married, and the two young gentlemen are settled in business.

How great merit has a young man who thus saves his family from ruin?—How reproachful is the example to those profligates who destroy their constitutions, and run out their fortunes by intemperance and folly?—Despised by their relations, and avoided by all sober people, while scarce men in years, they are old in vice. The honest joys, and innocent pleasures of youth they never knew; the accumulated distresses of old age, come early upon them, with redoubled force. Reduced from opulence to the vilest dependance, and frequently deprived of the common necessities of life, they for a while drag on a wretched existence, and then, without comfort and without hope, drop into oblivion; with the bitter reflexion, that many a poor man and woman, to be born ages hereafter, will have cause to mourn that ever such wretches existed. If I had not been extremely interested in hearing Mrs WOODVILLE repeat this gentleman's history, I should not have been able to give you so distinct an account of it. I shall leave this place, with much regret, in a day or two; even the hopes of seeing my lord and lady ARNOLD, and sharing in their improving conversation, can scarce make the prospect of leaving this amiable family tolerable—Farewell! my JULIE,—my heart is divided.

L E T.

L E T T E R XC.

To the same.

A GENTLEMAN of this parish, who died about seven years ago, charged his estate with a perpetual annuity of ten pounds, to be paid by his successors, to the VICAR for the time being; two guineas of which to himself for preaching two sermons to young people; the one upon the first Tuesday of May, the other upon the first Tuesday of November yearly; the remainder of the money to be by him applied, at the sight of the gentleman's successors, in purchasing books upon moral and religious subjects, to be distributed among the young people in the parish, upon the days these sermons are preached. No book to exceed two shillings in price; the books to be different every half year, and the highest priced, to be given to the best scholars. The sermon for the summer half year was preached yesterday, to a crowded audience; my lord and lady ARNOLD were present, as was also your humble servant. I was very well pleased with the discourse, and shall endeavour to recollect part of it, I wont say for your entertainment, I know you would forgive me if I said for your instruction.

THE VICAR took these words for his text, "Come ye children hearken unto me, I will teach you the fear of the LORD."—From which, in the first place, he endeavoured to point out the goodness and mercy of GOD implied in the call. 2dly, From the term *children*, he observed, that the divine paternity is the foundation of all our hopes here and hereafter—that our earthly parents, like ourselves, are weak, fluctuating, and imperfect beings; often unable to help themselves; and that in a few years, they must be unto us as if they never had been. That they are frequently taken from us when we seem most to want their aid, and that even while with us, their vices and bad example often hurt and mislead us. That therefore we can have no security but in the gracious protection of our HEAVENLY FATHER, who made us to be happy, and is always ready, by the communications of his grace, to support us under the difficulties of the present life, and will at last, if we are not wanting to ourselves, receive us into a state of happiness, pure, permanent, and beyond the reach of accidents. From the promise, "*I will, teach you the fear of the LORD,*" he observed that the SUPREME BEING, who is intimately acquainted with the state and condition of our minds, knows the wisest of us all to be but children in understanding, that we are easily drawn aside from our duty, and often careless and indifferent to our true happiness; and that in consequence of all this, we stand greatly

in need of his divine admonitions. Having cleared the meaning and general import of the words, he next proceeded to shew the wisdom and propriety of listening to the divine call, especially in our early years, while the heart is tender, susceptible of the warmest feelings of love and gratitude, and not hackneyed in the ways of vice. He observed that there is no standing still in virtue or vice; if we do not get forward in virtue, we are sure to lose ground; if our vices are not checked and restrained, they grow every day stronger and stronger by habit.

“WERE we sure,” said he, “that our lives would be prolonged to old age, and had we the power of reforming them at pleasure, there would be some excuse for delaying our amendment; in that case we might invert the address of the epicure, and say to our soul, *eat, drink, and be merry, for to morrow, nor for a great while thereafter, thou shalt not die.* But, my young friends, this is by no means the case, *we know not what a day may bring forth*; we know not how soon our souls may be required of us, nor at what time we shall be called upon to give an account of our talents. People of all ages daily drop down around us: several of those present upon the last occasion of this nature, are now in another world, and God only knows whose turn it may be next. *Blessed is that servant who when his LORD cometh shall be found watching!*—But, my young friends, were we even sure that

that our lives would hold out to extreme old age, this would be no good reason to put off our reformation : the longer we delay it, the more difficult we shall find it; the less inclination we shall have to set about it; the less ability to go through it. Were it not that I would allure you to the love and practice of virtue, by the mercies of God, by the still voice of the gospel, and not by the terrors of the law, it were easy to paint death-bed scenes which would make your ears tingle—but I spare you—We are often, by our office, obliged to witness these scenes, and cannot but frequently observe the certainty of these important truths, that *the wicked are as the troubled sea*, and that *the end of the upright is peace*. If our souls are not by habits of virtue transformed into the divine image, they will, by habits of vice, become dead and calous, earthly, and favouring but earthly things. If then we would wish to rise with CHRIST to the life immortal, let us mortify our members which are upon earth, let us, animated by his bright example, set our affections on things above, where he now sitteth at the right hand of GOD.”—I am interrupted, my JULIE—farewel!—

L E T T E R XCI.

To the same.

I RECEIVE your acknowledgements, my dear JULIE, with great pleasure—very few, in this dissipated age, would think themselves much obliged by a sermon at second hand. The VICAR thus proceeded—“Happiness, my young friends, is the wish of every body, though vast numbers fall short of it, by the irregular indulgence of their passions and appetites. These, however, were implanted in our nature for wise and good purposes; under the conduct of reason and religion, they are not only innocent, but useful. When they may be indulged, and in what cases they should be restrained, are points which I shall not now enter upon; I need not, as I have the pleasure to know that most of you are well acquainted with these questions, and able to answer them to your own minds.

BUT though the knowlege of your duty is a great point gained, it is necessary, in respect of human frailty, that you be often put in mind of it; as you must every day expect to meet with something that has, more or less, a tendency to divert you from the practice of it. Your own weakness, the ill example of many around you, and the deceitfulness

fulness of sin, are all combined against you--Against all you must fight, if you would hope to conquer at last; fear not to enter the lists, in a humble dependance upon God's gracious assistance; to wish to prevail is more than half the victory. I would not weary you--And therefore shall not overload your memories with many and long directions; suffer me however, my dear young friends, to say a few things, which, if attended to, may be useful. To be duly sensible of your own weakness is a great point, as it will reach you the necessity of being constantly on your guard against whatever would seduce you from your duty. Establish it in your mind as an invariable maxim, *that wisdom's ways are pleasantness, and all her paths peace.* When you may be tempted to do any thing which your conscience disapproves, and happily escape the snare, mark well the situation of your mind immediately after; if it approves of your conduct, if you inwardly rejoice as one that findeth hid treasure--whence is it, but from that internal sense of duty which God hath implanted in the human mind, and which the external offices of religion but serve to awaken and keep alive? Compare these joyous feelings with the state of your mind, when upon former occasions you may have done amiss; when you have gone lengths which conscience, which virtue and prudence cautioned you against; and if upon such a comparison you do not find the advantage to be on the side of virtue and religion; if you do not
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find that even your present happiness is inseparably connected with your duty, I shall no longer insist upon the difference between virtue and vice, I shall admit happiness and misery to be but mere sounds.

FROM the bad example of others you have much to fear; for though vice is in its own nature vile and dishonourable, and extremely disgusting to a well informed mind; yet it loses much of its horror, by seeing it often practised, especially if by those whom we justly value for some good qualities. In this case, the danger of the example is exceeding great: we are apt to think that there can be no great harm in this or that indulgence, when we see men of sober characters give into it; we may have heard apologies made for this or that thing which we should not have thought ourselves at liberty to do; we may have often heard a strict and uniform regard to the duties of religion, charged to the account of hypocrisy, singularity, or weakness of mind—Thus our virtue is undermined, our principles gradually weakened, and too too often the very foundations of our religious sentiments shaken!—But, my young friends, we must not follow a multitude to do evil; *every one must answer for himself unto GOD*—Let us revere the example of good men, let us follow them, so far as they are followers of CHRIST; but let us still remember, that there is but one perfect example, even that of our blessed SAVIOUR, who alone

alone fulfilled all righteousness, and left us an example that we should follow his steps.

You may see men whom you think well of, who may perhaps, upon the whole, really merit your esteem, guilty of things which are reproachful to their character and profession, but you know not what these indulgences may cost them—you know not the bitter pangs of a mind, neither virtuous nor vicious, but both by turns; like a vessel in a stormy sea, without rudder or ballast, it rolls from side to side, till at last, involved in the waves of sickness and death, it is finally shipwrecked. Many, my young friends, are the advantages, even in our present state, of a sober and religious life—Look around you, and see who are most generally respected by their neighbours, who commonly enjoy the best state of health, who the most comfortable old age, and whose worldly circumstances are usually farthest removed from the two dangerous extremes of poverty and riches. Is it not those who, from early youth, have lived sober and regular lives? who have always expressed a decent regard for religion, and lived in this world, as the expectants of another? so true it is, that godliness hath the promise of the life that now is, as well as of that which is to come. On the other hand, turn your eyes to the neglected and despised part of mankind, whose constitutions are broken by intemperance and riot, who neglected the duties of their station, who said
unto

unto wisdom: "we will have none of thy ways"—
 see some without bread to eat, without rags to cover
 them—others abandoned to all the miseries of vice—
 see some, in jails and hospitals, weighed down
 with chains or covered with ulcers—Perhaps
 while I now speak, some of them are paying the
 forfeit to the injured laws of their country—many
 of them, alas! may be now breathing out their
 souls in curses and blasphemy!—I cannot proceed—
 How justly may we say of these, in the emphati-
 cal language of holy writ, that their sins cover them
 as a cloke—that their iniquities have laid fast hold
 of them—They neglected the happy opportunities
 which you enjoy—many of them have regreted the
 lapse of time—bitterly regreted it; but time past
 can never, never, be recalled!—May God give
 us grace, in this the day of our merciful visita-
 tion, to remember the things that belong to our
 peace! before they be hid from our eyes! before
 our feet stumble upon the dark mountains." I am
 so much affected with the recollection of this last
 passage, that I cannot proceed—I have endeavoured
 to do justice to the gentleman, but am afraid I have
 not been able; had you seen how much the whole
 congregation was affected, you would have admired
 the force of good sentiment, and elegant expression
 —I hope another letter will conclude all—farewel!

L E T.

L E T T E R XCII.

To the same.

THE gentleman thus proceeded—"You are not only in danger, my young friends, from what others do, but also from what they say; for such is the depravity of the times, that men no longer seek to conceal their views; they even glory in their shame—so natural is the transition from a lesser to a higher degree of impiety. They find the precepts of our holy religion so contrary to the indulgence of their lust and passions, that they gladly lay hold of every objection thrown out against it; they admit them without scruple or examination; and partly with the view of excusing their own conduct, partly to be esteemed men of deep reach and a liberal spirit, disseminate them in all companies, with an air of confidence, not easily to be conceived. It is not my intention to take up your time with mentioning these objections, and the answers which have been made to them, as well in the present age, as a thousand years ago; let me but just observe, that a religion which evidently tends to make men wiser and better, to restrain vice, and promote virtue in the world, has a strong probability of being from God. That a religion established by undeniable miracles, and which not only without the aid, but

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persecuted

persecuted by the civil power, so quickly spread its doctrines over most part of the then known world, must have been of divine original. What, but a thorough conviction of its truth, could have induced its first professors to renounce the world, with all its vices and vanities, and freely and chearfully to part with their lives, rather than deny their faith? While the prisons were thronged with christians, while the earth was drenched with the blood of martyrs, people of all ages, sexes, and qualities, thronged into the church; the learned and the unlearned gave equal testimony to the truth of Christianity, and with equal constancy and courage sealed it with their blood.

It was not at first propagated in a dark and ignorant age, but in the most enlightened, the most learned, that had been since men were upon earth. It was not introduced into the world by one of a suspicious character, but by one who could say, in the midst of his surrounding enemies, "who is he among you that convinceth me of sin?"—by one whose whole life was spent in acts of mercy and beneficence to the souls and bodies of men; who went about from place to place, continually doing good—by one whose very enemies were obliged to confess, that he taught the ways of God truly—that he spake as never man spoke—by one who gave evidences of a divine power, inherent in him, which could not possibly be mistaken—
by

by one who said to the dead, live, and they lived; who cured all manner of diseases by a word, or a touch—who walked upon the water—who said to the wind be still, and it obeyed him—to the stormy waves be calm, and they subsided—who could, unseen, convey himself through the midst of his enraged enemies—who could foretell future events, and knew the secret thoughts of men—by one whose unbounded love for the souls of men, made him cheerfully submit to all possible indignities, and at last lay down his life as a ransom for their iniquities—by one whom God raised from the dead, and hath now highly exalted at his own right hand, till all things be subjected to his dominion. These, my young friends, are not cunningly devised fables, but truths the most certain, the most comfortable; truths which give a relish to life, and smooth the brow of death.

It imports you much, my dear young friends, to have just and becoming notions of God and religion; as your sentiments of both must naturally have a strong influence upon your conduct in life. The fool sayeth in his heart, there is no God, and his practice is conformable to such an absurd opinion. Some would confine the regards of the SUPREME BEING to a small part of mankind, no wonder therefore if their own sentiments be narrow and contracted, no wonder if they withhold their love and benevolence from those whom they believe God hates—Some weakly and impiously ascribe the worst of hu-

man passions to the **DEITY**, they ascribe them in fact, though they deny them in words; they think God altogether such a one as themselves, and by the standard of their own minds they judge of his infinite perfections—far be such folly, such impiety from you, my young friends! — Look up unto God as the **PARENT** of the universe, who tenderly regards all his creatures; who called them into existence, and who continually supplies their various wants. Look up to him, in a particular manner, as the great **CREATOR** of the humane race, who alone, of all his creatures upon this globe, resemble him in his moral perfections; who are endowed with power and faculties much superior to the animals around them; who are in some degree qualified to partake of his infinite happiness; who, while all nature around them is impelled by necessary and invariable laws to a certain course of action, have the honour to be free agents, that they may be capable of future reward; that their service and obedience, may be that of sons, who reverence their father's laws, not that of slaves who only dread his rod.

BUT above all, look up to him, with confidence, as the **GOD** and **FATHER** of our **LORD JESUS CHRIST**, by whom he hath reconciled all things to himself. When there was no eye to pity, no hand to help, he saved us with an everlasting salvation; he sent his **SON** into the world, that whosoever believeth on him might not perish, but have everlasting

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ing life; he spared not his only Son, but freely gave him up unto the death for us all. He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed—all we, like sheep, had gone astray, and the LORD laid upon him the iniquities of us all—O the height and the depth, the breadth and the length of the love of God, it passeth knowledge!—bless the Lord, O our souls! and all that is within us bless his holy name! the LORD is good unto all, and his tender mercies are over all his works!—let heaven and earth praise him, for his mercy endureth for ever!" I could almost wish, my JULIE, that I had not thought of giving you this trouble, as I believe I shall never have done—farewell!—

L E T T E R X C I I I.

To the same.

YOU forbid apologies—I don't interrupt the narration—the VICAR thus proceeded—
 "Religion, my young friends, is not a gloomy melancholy service, it precludes you from no rational enjoyment—it would only teach you to moderate your passions and appetites—it was never meant to annihilate them. It would but teach you to be dutiful children, good subjects, and good members of
 society

society—it would only restrain you from indulgences hurtful to yourselves, detrimental to others, and contrary to the established laws of your country. It would not have you whine, and cry, and hang down the head, as the servants of a severe master; no, my friends, the language of inspiration is, “Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous! let the heart of every one rejoice that seeks the LORD—rejoice in the LORD always, yea, again I say rejoice!”—With how much propriety do the holy penmen thus address the disciples of JESUS!—who may rejoice, if they may not, whose delight is in the law of the LORD?—who may be cheerful if they may not, who have the LORD JEHOVAH for their shield and their stay?—who may rest secure amidst all the trials and vicissitudes of the present life, if they may not, whose hope and confidence is in the LORD their God, ever able, and ever ready to help them?

SUFFER me, my young friends, in a few words, to caution you against the deceitfulness of sin—It will attack you in all the alluring attitudes which may most easily lead you astray—it will assume the form of pleasure, and tempt you with every gratification the human mind can desire—it will put on the flowing robe of beauty, and spread before you all the gaudy scenes that captivate the weak and the vain—it will strut in all the magnificence of worldly grandeur, and promise you crowns, and kingdoms, and riches, and honours—it will mark your various
temper

tempers and dispositions, and offer whatever may be most agreeable to them—Believe it not, thousands and ten thousands have been deceived by it—to inflame, to ruin, to undo you, is its real intention—The wages of sin is death—the soul that sinneth shall surely die—Ye are purchased with a price, therefore let not sin reign in your mortal bodies. There is one way, my young friends, and I know but of one, by which you may be pretty secure against the allurements of sin—It is by having your minds always imprest with a habitual reverence of ALMIGHTY GOD, as ever present to your thoughts and actions—If you really believe that GOD constantly sees and observes you, as is truly the case, to use the emphatical language of holy writ, *sin will appear exceeding sinful*—When outwardly or inwardly tempted to deviate from your duty, you will lift up your souls to your CREATOR in the sentiments of the pious JOSEPH, and say, Shall I do this great wickedness, and sin against GOD?—Shall I, for a momentary gratification, forfeit the peace of my own mind, and lay in the bitter fruits of repentance?—GOD forbid!—As this temper of mind is all in all in religion, I shall give you a few rules, or marks, to try yourselves by, that you may certainly know the real state of your own minds.

FIRST, then, if you have this habitual reverence for ALMIGHTY GOD, you will stand in as much awe to offend him, in your most secret retirements,

as if the eyes of the whole world were upon you; and for this plain reason, that the eye of God will be more to you than all the world.

2. If this reverence of the SUPREME BEING really predominates in your souls, you will upon no occasion lightly speak of him; much less will you boldly and impiously swear by his name in your ordinary conversation.

3. If this be the happy disposition of your mind, you will think reverently of the holy scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation; you will read them with pleasure, and sincerely endeavour to make them, in all cases, the rule of your life and conduct.

4. If you thus reverence God's holy name and word, you will also think with reverence of the external ordinances of religion, you will attend upon them, when not necessarily detained, and never make them the subject of profane mirth and drolery.

5. If you really love God, on account of his infinite perfections, and the immense obligations you ly under to him, you will carefully impress your minds with this important consideration, that if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. These rules, my dear young friends, are short, and easily remembered—May God give you grace frequently and impartially to apply them!—

PERHAPS,

PERHAPS, my young friends, some of you may be hurt by the variety of false religions which prevail in the world; but while the providence of God permits them, it can never be our duty to hate, to malign, and to persecute their unhappy votaries. These tempers, and the prevalence of error, are chargeable to the abuse of the Christian religion, which is nevertheless obviously well calculated to promote the glory of God, and the peace and happiness of mankind—While Christians lived in any tolerable degree, conformable to the rules and precepts of their holy religion, ignorance and vice were ashamed—Paganism fled before it, and even the deep rooted prejudices of Judaism gave way—Satan, like lightning fell to the ground, and the reproach of the cross was no bar to its success in the world.

BUT alas! what threatnings and contempt could not effectuate, what peril and sword could not do, that the blessing of peace, and the allurements of the world too fatally accomplished—While men slept, intoxicated with the pleasures of this life, the enemy sowed his tares, which in many parts of the world have destroyed the wheat—Of old it was said, "See how the Christians live!—they meet before it is day to sing hymns to CHRIST—they bind themselves by an oath not to commit crimes—they love one another—they support one another"—Alas! how is their glory changed! how is their fine
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gold become dim!—broken into sects and parties, differing in almost every article of belief, everywhere reproaching the sacred name by which they are called; and, wherever the civil power does not restrain them, persecuting one another!—Well! my young friends, all this notwithstanding, the religion of JESUS is the same holy and respectable institution that it was seventeen hundred years ago—it is, and it always will be, equally, the joy and delight of good men, and has the same happy tendency to bless and reform mankind. Let us therefore live as children of the light—let us regulate our conduct by the example of our SAVIOUR, and the precepts of his gospel; let our light so shine before men, that they seeing our good works, may glorify our FATHER who is in heaven—let us walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil—let us walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called; not doubting but in GOD'S good time, an abundant entrance shall be ministred unto us into the everlasting kingdom of our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST; who loved us, and gave himself for us. Charity, my young friends, is the super-eminent of all Christian graces; true piety is a vital principle, which enlargeth the mind, and elevates the soul above the littleness of party-spirit—a mind thus enlarged, sees the divine goodness continually showering down blessings upon mankind—it rejoiceth in the mercy of GOD—it wisheth to imitate the HEAVENLY

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FATHER—it embraceth the whole human race,—and with a generous pity, regards those who are not happy in the same liberal sentiments.”

FAREWELL, my **JULIE**,—love me, and be happy.—

LETTER XCIV.

To the same.

I OMIT many sensible things which the gentleman said; let me only give you, as nearly in his own words as possible, the conclusion of his discourse—“To sum up all, my dear young friends, let me just put you in mind of the glorious reward which awaits all those in another world, whose lives are in this devoted to the service of GOD. What, or how great that reward is, eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive. Our blessed SAVIOUR, who brought life and immortality to light by his gospel, hath assured us, “that in his FATHER’S house are many mansions—that he is gone to prepare a place for us, and that where he is, there his servants shall be also.” With what triumph does saint PAUL speak of this reward, while the prisoner of the merciless NERO, and in the near view of death!—“I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my depar-

ture is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

BUT, though we can neither speak nor conceive aright of the future reward, we are sure that it will be great, that it will be eternal; worthy of God to bestow, and in every respect suited to our enlarged faculties in the immortal state. There, we shall see God, all glorious, and all perfect as he is—there, we shall be like him, in our measure and degree—there, we shall more fully comprehend the ways of providence; and there, the justice and equity of God's moral government will be clear as the noon-day—Then, we shall have got beyond the reach of temptation, for there shall be nothing to hurt or offend in all God's holy mountain. There, we shall enjoy the society of all the good and holy men that ever lived, or shall live; who will be as of one heart and one soul; all united in the love of God, and of one another—To conclude; my young friends, there, we shall be admitted members of the church of the first born; and there, with angels and archangels, and all the hosts of heaven, we shall sing, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."

blessing. — Let us now, therefore, with grateful hearts, ascribe " Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the LAMB for ever and ever !"

AFTER sermon, the young people, who sat by themselves, were asked many plain and pertinent questions, respecting the grounds and evidences of the Christian religion, to all which they gave very accurate and distinct answers. After the examination, the books were distributed; and then the young people, accompanied only by the clerk, sung the four following stanzas from TATE and BRADY's version of the 119th Psalm.

" How shall the young preserve their ways
From all pollution free ?
By making still their course of life
With thy commands agree.

With hearty zeal for thee I seek,
To thee for succour pray,
O suffer not my careless steps
From thy right paths to stray.

Safe in my heart, and deeply hid,
Thy word, my treasure lies ;
To succour me with timely aid,
When sinful thoughts arise.

Secur'd

Secur'd by that, my grateful soul
 Shall ever bless thy name,
 O teach me then by thy just laws,
 My future life to frame.

BEFORE pronouncing the blessing, the worthy man, with uplifted hands, and the greatest fervour of devotion, read the following prayer, composed for the occasion:—"We adore thee, O GOD! as the greatest and best of beings, who alone hast immortality, who dwellest in light inaccessible and full of glory. We adore that goodness which brought us into existence—we adore that merciful providence which preserves us in life, and giveth us all things richly to enjoy—but above all, with filial reverence we would adore thee O GOD! for the redemption of mankind by our LORD JESUS CHRIST, the only begotten of thee, the FATHER, full of grace and truth—Our fathers trusted in thee, and were not ashamed—in thee, O LORD! is our hope—May our children serve thee; when this generation shall have passed away; and may they with us, be at last happy in thy mercy.—We acknowledge that we are strangers and pilgrims upon earth, who seek a better country—lead us by thy good SPIRIT, conduct us by thy holy providence, through the trials and vicissitudes of the present life, and at last bring us to that rest which remaineth for thy people—to that temple of which thou art the glory and the light—to that SAVIOUR, who loved

us—to that happy society who cease not to praise thee. Save, O God! from the evils of this world, the rising generation, the hopes of a future age; especially those here present; thine they are, O LORD! and to thy grace we commend them; be thou their shield and their stay here; their everlasting portion, their exceeding great reward hereafter—through the merits and mediation of JESUS, thy dear SON, our SAVIOUR. Amen.”

I MUST do the VICAR the justice to tell you, that he never touched a shilling of the two guineas—may his example have weight with his successors!—I do think, my JULIE, that institutions of this kind might produce much good—Very true, young people, as well as others, are often occasionally put in mind of their duty—but every thing new or uncommon, more strongly attracts their attention—a conscientious clergyman would, upon occasions of this nature, exert himself to the utmost,—he would strain every nerve, to promote so laudable a design—How great are the objects which it has in view!—the peace and happiness of the present—the happiness of future ages—the happiness of immortal souls—the happiness of eternity!—All these, my JULIE, may be very much promoted by discourses of this nature, and the distribution of well chosen practical treatises, upon moral and religious subjects; young people knowing that they were to be thus examined and rewarded, would be uncommonly

monly careful to acquire a reasonable degree of knowledge of the grounds and principles of our holy religion. While some bequeath money for ringing peals, to promote horse-racing, and other such mean purposes, let us thank God that some men think more rationally—At last, my dear JULIE, I make an end—farewel!

L E T T E R XCV.

To the same.

JUST as we sat down to dinner yesterday, an elderly gentleman came to pay my lord a visit; by the manner in which the stranger was received, I could easily see that they had been long acquainted. My lord ARNOLD, who is at peace with all mankind, after the king's health, generally gives the ministry—when the toast was proposed, the gentleman shrugged up his shoulders, but said not a word. My lord observed it, and smilingly asked, "What, Mr UMPHREVILLE, won't you drink the ministry?"—"Drink them, my lord!—by all means!—*grace to do their duty*"—"An excellent amendment of the toast," said his lordship—"I dare say my old friend has his reasons for it—what is the case, sir, have any of the gentlemen fallen under your displeasure?"—"Not recently, my lord, but you and I remember the time when a well affected coun-
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any gentleman had more to say with those at the helm—when a man could have done more for his footman than he now can for his brother; when the friends of the royal family were known and respected.” “I hope, Mr UMFREVILLE, this last is still the case.” “Can your lordship think so, when many of them have not interest to procure a tide-waiter’s place—when great numbers bear the king’s commission, whose ancestors would not have said God bless his family?”—“Court-interest, my friend, has its ebbs and flows—it would be unjust to punish men for the crimes or follies of their ancestors. If the ministry, in former reigns, cherished and countenanced party spirit, they acted a mean and unworthy part, and took a most effectual method not only to propagate the evil, but also to deprive their sovereigns of what good princes have, in all ages, set a high value upon, the esteem and confidence of their subjects.”

“GRATITUDE, my lord, can never be criminal, it was certainly the duty of those in the administration, to distinguish the friends of the royal family, had they even less supported the measures of government. I have seen the day when Jacobites kept in holes and corners.” “It were, I think, a nobler boast, that you have lived to see the day, when there are no Jacobites in the kingdom.—We have the happiness, sir, to live under a prince who accounts no man his enemy, till he has first shown

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himself

himself an enemy to the laws of his country; a generous confidence, very natural to a great mind, conscious of the best intentions to all the world."

" These are fine words, my lord, but a man whose ancestors have done and suffered a great deal for the family now upon the throne, will scarce be persuaded that he has not a preferable title to preferment."

" And I think, Mr UMFREVILLE, I should not easily be persuaded that he has—Suppose, sir, your ancestors and mine to have been zealous revolutioners—what was the object of their zeal?—Was it not the liberties of their country, and their own private rights? In defence of these they may have suffered, for these they may have fought; but what merit can a man have from barely doing his duty? From the moment the act of settlement had the royal assent, the family now reigning had a right to be considered as presumptive heirs of the crown; from their accession to the throne, they were entitled to the duty and obedience of their subjects; upon what therefore shall such claims of merit be founded? Some of those who, misled by prejudice and private views, threw off their reverence for the laws, and rebelled against their SOVEREIGN, were punished; others became objects of the royal mercy, and many were afterward entitled to claim the benefit of acts of indemnity. Their crime was personal; shall we then impute it to those not born at those periods, to those who could not possibly have any share in their guilt?"

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" I AM afraid, my lord, we shall scarce agree in this point—I won't argue the matter further, but insist upon it, that these were better times; a man was then of more consideration in the county—the oath of abjuration kept a great many from elections, quarter-sessions, and other public meetings, whose sons and grandsons now swear as freely as the oldest whig in the kingdom." " One comfort still remains, Mr UMFREVILLE, a man of your influence and extensive connexions, must always be of consequence once in seven years." " Less so than formerly, my lord; I can indeed remember the time when this was the case, when the ministry seemed to wish that no members might be returned but such as were stanch friends of the government in church and state—but the times are changed—new measures have been adopted—and if my information be just, except it be from personal regard, or family connexions, the ministry give themselves little trouble in elections—time will shew the effects of this inattention to the wise and prudent measures of former administrations." " You certainly would not impute it as a crime to the ministry, that they suffer the people, without controul, to elect whom they please; the freedom of election has been always held essential to liberty." " But, my lord, it is not a settled point with me, that as the times go, there can be any such thing as a free election; if the ministry will not corrupt us, we will corrupt one another; a man's influence

is his estate, why may he not in all cases make the most of it?—You know, my lord, I have been obliged to former ministers—If the present ministry wont serve me, neither shall I serve them; and there let the matter rest.”

Is it not amazing, my JULIE, that there should be found men weak and base enough to avow such sentiments?—How long did all good men wish to see an end put to the little party distinctions of whigs and tories, a glory reserved for the present reign? and yet you see some regret it—let them!—Wretched must the times be, when a man’s personal merit shall no longer recommend him to the favour of his prince, and the service of his country—Never again may a British minister dishonour his place by countenancing party spirit!—never may the prince who now does honour to the throne, repent the generous confidence which he places in his subjects!—Farewel, my JULIE,—though we cannot fight for it, let us always wish well to our country.

L E T T E R XCVI.

To the same.

MY lord and I took an airing in the chariot yesterday forenoon, when we observed the
road

road crowded with passengers—on enquiring the reason, we were told, that next day, a man was to be hanged for stealing a horse at a market town, about ten miles distant—my lord sighed, and was silent.

A LITTLE after—"I have often wished," said he, "that our penal laws were revised, as in some cases they are too mild, in others too severe, and in general do not seem to answer the good ends for which they were made. Of many that might be given, I shall give but an instance of the first,—if a wretch to extort money, or to gratify malice, charges one with a crime not to be named, he is only to be transported for a few years, should the conviction of his guilt be ever so apparent—in my opinion, a thousand lives is not an equivalent amends to the injured character. If a fellow steals a trifle, of no sort of consequence, it is felony; the punishment death. If he breaks into my house under the silence of night, carries off half my furniture, and murders myself and servants, the punishment is the same; with this only difference, that in the last case, his body might be hung in chains, or given to the surgeons. In the two supposed cases there is certainly all the odds in the world: a man must be desperately wicked to attempt the last, a common degree of vicious inclination, and sometimes thoughtless ignorance, may induce one to venture upon the first. Should there not then, my lady HARIET, be some distinction in the punishment?" "In the malignity of the

the crimes, my lord, there is certainly a vast difference, but your lordship knows that the mildness of our constitution don't allow the cruel punishments inflicted in other countries."

" I SHOULD be sorry if it did, madam; if we must punish, let us punish as men and Christians— What I would insinuate is, that if death be the proper punishment for murder, rape, highway robberies, house-breaking, and other such daring insults upon society. it is a great deal too much for a simple act of theft, where, in many cases, the injured person might be easily indemnified, and where the criminal is frequently not one of an abandoned character. Nor can I think, madam, that society could suffer much by a relaxation of the laws in this case: I admit that private property should be secure; but we see the present laws do not render it secure; and therefore other methods might be tried, to attain that good end.

I COULD wish that theft were in no case punished with death, but rather by a threefold restitution, where this is practicable, and where it is not, by a temporary forfeiture of liberty. As to banishment, I have long thought it a very improper punishment for theft, or indeed for any other crime. With what propriety can we say that a criminal is punished, by being sent to a finer country than his own? for which perhaps he would have
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ship himself before, had he been able to pay his passage. If the love of their native spot, or a strong attachment to its reigning vices, gives transportation, to some, the appearance of a real punishment, they know how to console themselves; they know it is an easy matter to re-ship themselves for Britain. This we know frequently has been, and often will be the case—and we know also that felons who thus return from transportation, within the time limited, go up and down with a rope about their necks; they are therefore commonly more dangerous and determined in their villanies, and to prevent a discovery of their persons and crimes, frequently commit murder.

THE law has no vindictive view, its punishments are all intended for example, for the good and safety of the community—to prevent the future commission of crimes. But to be duly sensible of the danger of committing a crime, it would seem necessary, that the people among whom it was committed, should be frequent witnesses of the punishment, whether it be death or infamy: the minds of the lower ranks are too gross to be affected with any thing but what is before their eyes. Our convicts, banished to the colonies, are scarce three weeks gone, when they and their crimes are generally forgot; if any remember, they scarce pity them, and therefore this mode of punishment can have very little effect to prevent the like crimes. I could therefore

therefore with, madam, that by way of trial, for a certain number of years, all persons convicted of theft, were adjudged to have forfeited their liberty for a shorter or longer period, in proportion to the demerit of their crime; and in consequence of this lapse, ordained to work for their subsistence, in coal-works, roperies, foundaries, or other such like hard labour, in their native country. In which case, the example of their punishment would be seen by their countrymen, and I think could scarce fail of having a happy effect upon their conduct. And as the intention of the law is to reform and restrain a felon, who gave satisfactory evidence of his reformation, might, upon application to his majesty, be restored to his liberty, sooner than the time limited by his sentence. Nor do I propose that they should be deprived of any other liberty, competent to British subjects, but that of chusing their master and place of residence, and setting a price upon their own labour.

I AM aware that many objections may be made to what I have now proposed—The remotest appearance of slavery is contrary to the spirit and genius of our constitution—We hear, with horror, of the galley slaves in France—If British subjects cannot be trusted at large, they must be put to death, or sent out of the kingdom—But let me ask, madam, upon what principle this over delicacy is founded?—If a man may forfeit his life to the laws of his

his country, much more may he forfeit a few of his privileges, for a term of years. If a man for a civil debt, may for years be locked up in a prison, may he not for a crime be suffered to work a certain space for his subsistence; especially when it is considered that he is all the while exhibiting a most useful example to his fellow subjects. It may also be said, that though the law at present makes stealing a small matter capital, yet few suffer for a single act of theft, except the guilty person has also a very bad character. Though the law makes no distinction, judges and juries frequently do; they consider every alleviating circumstance, and where they cannot acquit, they frequently recommend to the SOVEREIGN'S mercy; convicts are sometimes pardoned, and at other times the sentence of death is commuted into banishment. All this is very well—But as the law now stands, the lenity of judges and juries, and the hopes of the SOVEREIGN'S mercy, have often a pernicious effect; they are generally too much reckoned upon, and transportation thought so mere a trifle, that no mind, insensible of disgrace, at all regards it.

EVERY good man rejoiceth in the royal prerogative of the crown, by which the SOVEREIGN can moderate the rigour of our criminal law; if a man has been rashly condemned upon improper evidence of his crime; if strong suspicions lie against the private prosecutor, or if after sentence, something fa-

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vourable shall occur in his case, it is the glory of his MAJESTY that he can suspend the execution of the sentence; that he can pardon the criminal, or moderate the punishment. But I am afraid, madam, that this prerogative has often been exerted in the wrong place, I am afraid great numbers have died who had a better title to mercy; though in neither of these cases could the SOVEREIGN possibly be to blame. What can a prince know of a felon's character, or of the evidences upon which he is condemned, but from the information of those who solicit for his life?—These may be, and frequently are, imposed upon, by the partial and interested information of others—In short, if a criminal has any good connexions, who perhaps feel more for the reproach his death would bring upon themselves than for him, he has some chance of interest above; but where this is not the case, he can have little hope of being represented as an object of mercy." You will certainly conclude that my lord and I have a plot to reform the laws—We certainly have not—the conversation was merely accidental—Farewel—respect the laws, and be protected by them.——

L E T.

L E T T E R XCVII.

To the same.

AS my lord ARNOLD's nephew sets out for Scotland next week, his lordship was this morning taken up in writing him a letter of advice. After breakfast he put a paper into my hand, with this obliging compliment, " You are so much my friend, lady HARIET, that you would not wish me to expose myself to my junior ; will your ladyship, therefore, take the trouble to read over, and correct this scrawl." " Most willingly, my lord ; but you might as well trust a bookseller with a manuscript against religion, or the ministry ; I shall certainly take a copy." " There is no danger, madam, it is too long, and your ladyship don't intend to travel. But should you even take a copy, I will forgive you, in regard of the benefit which I hope from your remarks." But why, my JULIE, should I detain you a moment from the letter itself, which is written so much in the stile and spirit of this worthy man ?

" You are now, my dear nephew, on the point of setting out a second time for Scotland, when you intend to take a much larger circuit than formerly. The civilities you met with in your last journey,

leave no room to doubt of the same hospitality now; and from the many sensible remarks you made upon the genius, the customs, and manners of the people, I have reason to hope that your fund of knowledge will be considerably increased, by taking a larger and more deliberate survey of the country and its inhabitants. Though you are a young traveller, I think there are but a few things in regard to which I need to caution you; and should some of these seem superfluous, impute them to my concern about you: let my age plead my excuse. Barely to see distant countries is a matter of mere curiosity, and costs more, in fatigue and expence, than it is worth: a man may spend a long life in travelling from one place of the globe to another, and be able to describe the situations and boundaries of many kingdoms, without acquiring a single grain of useful knowledge. Without attention, and a moderate stock of virtue and common sense, a traveller sets out with a very bad grace; with these qualities, he has the agreeable prospect of much rational entertainment. But, my dear WILLIAM, however essential these qualifications may appear, we find that a deficiency in one, or even in all of them, is not sufficient to deter young men of birth and fortune from travelling. To see the world is become fashionable; a part of modern education; and the sooner one sees it the better. Though a young man should not attend much to the improvement of his mind, he may possibly pay some regard

to his person and dress: he may acquire a little modest assurance, and pick up many shrewd stories against priests and religion. He may spend his money, run out his constitution, and import a sufficient stock of follies to make him ridiculous all his life.

A MAN that is born a fool, is neither the subject of censure nor ridicule; but a man of common understanding, who travels without carefully attending to the main ends of travelling, is unquestionably the object of both. The want of consideration is the bane of mankind in general; and their not adverting to what is expected from their character and station in life, is the particular reproach and ruin of men of birth and fortune. We must think with dignity, if we would act with decorum. In respect of fortune, many young men are your superiors, who have not the same views, and who probably never will be called to discharge the same duties on the stage of life. It is the business of every man, by every mean in his power, to qualify himself for the decent discharge of those duties expected from his station; and hence, my dear, it is evident, that those who may hereafter be concerned in the cares of empire, who may be judges and legislators in their country, should have more generous and enlarged views of men and things, than are necessary in those of humbler station; who nevertheless may be equally useful to their country, and are therefore equally intitled to the
common

common privileges of subjects, and fellow citizens. But to be more particular; the inhabitants of every country are fond of their own language, and attached to their own customs and manners; there is even a national taste in the unimportant articles of eating and drinking, of dress and diversions. It is very proper that a stranger remark all this, but then he should do it in a liberal spirit; he must not smile if people speak the language of their country; nor by impertinent and ill timed compliments to his own language, take much pains to prove himself a fop. The use of language is to convey our ideas to one another, and as every county has its own peculiar dialect, to speak the purest, is but a kind of local merit. I the rather point out the indelicacy and impropriety of such conduct, as I have heard some gentlemen strongly express their contempt of the English now generally spoken in Scotland, who seemed not to know, or had not the candor to own, that in some of our western counties, the vulgar language is almost totally unintelligible to the inhabitants of the other parts of England.

SOME customs in Scotland may appear odd and singular to you; so would many of ours to a Scotchman: mark the propriety or impropriety of these; but neither censure nor condemn them; they may have been introduced for reasons which you cannot know; they may have had their origin in England, though now discontinued with us. The general
subjects

subjects of conversation differ in all countries according to the genius and taste of the people. In England, especially of late years, a spirit of freedom, and independance has so much prevailed, that the necessary reverence for the laws has been almost forgot. Hence political subjects, and the affairs of the nation, are the general topics of conversation, from saint STEPHEN's chappel to the cobbler's stall; every shopkeeper can settle the affairs of Europe, with as much accuracy and precision as he can ballance his books. The political demon has, as yet, less influence in Scotland; the Scotch value liberty as much as we do, but speak of it with more temper. They trust to us to keep the rod over the minister's head; with us they hope a great deal from the change of ministers, and with us they are generally disappointed. If it be a point of prudence to keep clear of party disputes in our own country, it is more especially so when we are among strangers; not that I would have you sit mute when political subjects are talked of. I would only wish you to express your sentiments with modesty and candor; neither approving of men or measures by the lump, nor rashly condemning them upon partial and imperfect evidence.

As you purpose to go much further north than when last in Scotland, possibly you will find a considerable odds in the people's way of living: this may be amusing; but let me observe, that it is much
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beneath a gentleman to give himself or others trouble about what he is to eat or to drink, provided only he can have things clean, and tolerable of their kinds. The provisions in our own counties differ exceedingly, and a traveller is not to look for the same elegance and abundance in all of them. An epicure should carry his cellar and lardry along with him. A modest man would not chuse to be troublesome and over-nice at an inn, much less would he insinuate the remotest dislike to any thing at a gentleman's table. If he cannot eat of one thing, he may of another, and a dish may be declined with a very good grace. Never state a comparison between the provisions at table, and those of your own country; should others do it, and your opinion be asked, express it with delicacy; and if you must give it for England, seem to suspect yourself of a prejudice, which others will possibly believe to be sufficiently strong.

I AM happy to know that you are in no danger of exceeding in drink, if it be not from an over-modesty, which does not easily resist the pressing solicitations of an hospitable landlord; and therefore it is only against this danger that I would caution you. You owe respect to your landlord, but you owe it also to decency and your own character; not to mention the danger of contracting an ill habit, and the bad effects that excessive drinking might have upon your health. Thanks to the prevalence

valence of common sense, this ungentlemanly vice is less common in Scotland than formerly ; a well bred man does not now think himself affronted, though his guest should be able to walk to his bed-chamber, without the assistance of a couple of footmen. It is a great mark of unpoliteness to press a young man to drink, and what I hope you will rarely meet with ; if you ever should, be upon your guard. To exclaim against drinking would be rude, you have no title to correct the manners of other people, and are too young to set up for a reformer, rather put your apology upon want of habit, a weakness in your stomach, which makes drink disagreeable to you ; or the view of something important to transact. If such apologies are accompanied with modesty and delicacy, few men are capable of insisting ; and lay it down as a maxim, that the man who could do it, is by no means a person for you to cultivate an acquaintance with." My lord had reason to believe that I would be afraid to copy his letter, which is, indeed, rather a treatise—I therefore break off here, and bid you good night, my fair cousin.

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L E T T E R XCVIII.

To the same.

IF you like the first part, you will not be sorry to have the sequel of my lord's letter. I give it you.—" 'Tis well you are not fond of gaming; it is a dangerous passion, and the source of many and great inconveniencies. One, however, who keeps company at all, must play at some times; and an hour or two may be very agreeably spent at whist, when the parties engaged have a reasonable command of temper. No body would chuse to be beaten; but he that cannot overlook a blunder in his partner, and lose a game without emotion, should never play. To play deep is a strong mark of avarice; a man who desires but to be amused, will play for no more than he knows he can lose with good humour: gamblers generally venture much, because they have commonly little to lose.

IN those parts of Scotland where you have been, you found the ladies sensible and agreeable; and I am persuaded you will find this to be the case every where in that country; they have generally a virtuous and sober education, and those of the first quality are taught, from their infancy, to work with their own hands. I would not wish you, upon
any

any occasion, to decline their company, it softens our manners, it improves our sentiments, and gives a relish to conversation, much easier to be felt than exprest. But, though great attention and complaisance be due to the sex, let me caution you against the indelicacy and impropriety of singling out a lady in a promiscuous company, as the object of your particular regard. Thus you would detract from the merit of every other lady present; it has a tendency to give impressions generally not intended, and is often productive of disagreeable consequences. For a young man on his travels to think of forming connexions for life, is a mark of great imprudence; and it is rare that connexions thus hastily entered into, turn well out. I know not a safer way to avoid them, than for one to be civil to every lady, but particular with none.

Good humour, and freedom, under the restraint of judgment, are the life and soul of conversation; but the habit of saying, what are commonly called, smart things, is one of the most dangerous talents that a man can carry about with him. What at once shows the malignity and absurdity of this talent is, that it frequently lays hold of a man's looks, his person, his manner of speaking, or his dress; the three first not in his own power, the last, a matter of mere opinion, in which there can be little of merit or demerit. Should you ever be present where national or religious pre-

judices are the subjects of conversation, this, above all others, is the time for you, if not to be silent, at least to consider yourself as a stranger; there is an attachment to these which grows up with us from our youth, and which very few minds have the strength to throw off: make the just allowances for others, and do not rashly condemn a weakness, of which your own heart will scarce acquit you.

WHEN last in Scotland you observed, that the Sunday is more religiously observed than with us; this is commendable, and every other motive out of the question, it is certainly the duty of a stranger to conform to the custom of the country; but more especially when we consider that this decent custom is founded in morality and religion. We are throughout the week, so much immersed in the cares and business of the world, that our minds acquire an indifference or distaste to every thing serious; and no question, the observation of the Sabbath was chiefly enjoined, to clear away the rust thus contracted, to recall our thoughts to the important considerations of religion; and to fit us for that state, where temporal objects and enjoyments can have no place. To a thinking man, the contemplation of God's works and attributes, and the review of his own conduct, are very interesting subjects. There is a wide difference between a Jewish strictness in the observation of the Sabbath, and those indecent liberties which some men allow themselves on the Sunday.

day. In one word, to a man who has a just sense of religion upon his mind, few arguments for a decent observation of this sacred day are necessary; and with him who has no regard for religion, the strongest arguments would have little effect.

THE first thing that strikes a traveller is the face of the country; he very naturally contrasts the appearance of it with his own, or with other countries which he may have seen; and upon these first impressions, rash and illiberal opinions are often founded. Culture and improvement, in the course of an age or two, make an immense odds in the appearance and value of lands; a stranger, therefore, when he comes into an open unimproved country, is not hastily to note it down as barren and unfruitful. He should mark the nature of the soil, observe the state of the fields in culture, inform himself as to the climate and seasons, the industry of the inhabitants, and the situation of the different districts in respect to manures and markets; from all which laid together, he will be able to form a judgment, whether the fault lies in the people or the country. Scotland, as you would observe, is, in general, a mountainous country; but in many places has as fine valleys, and as fertile fields as we have in any part of England. And though it was not much the case when I was last there, I am assured that the improvements in many particular places, are now equal to any thing of the kind we can boast of. A gentleman, upon whose
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knowledge and veracity I can depend, lately told me, that the improvements in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, about forty years ago, a poor neglected spot, had been conducted with as much judgment, and carried to as great an extent, as in any part of Britain he had ever seen. Lands which formerly bore little but heath, and without three inches of soil, now carry great crops of grain and grass, and are let at a very high rent; from three to four pound an acre, and the rent well paid.

AND yet, my dear nephew, such is the strength of prejudice, that not a few of our countrymen still look upon Scotland as little better than a desert, and will scarce be persuaded that a stranger can find in it any thing tolerable either to eat or to drink. National prejudices are extremely illiberal, and betray an ignorance and littleness of mind very unbecoming a gentleman. To eradicate these prejudices is one great end of travelling; a man may be imposed upon by the relations of others, his own eyes will not deceive him, if he chuses to keep them open. But that travelling may answer this good end, it would seem necessary that a young man should have some knowledge of his own, before he sets out to visit other countries. And also, that he be of sufficient age and experience to make the proper remarks and observations upon what he sees and hears. Can there be any thing more ridiculously absurd, than sending a lad abroad at 16 or 17 years of age, who has perhaps never before

fore been twenty miles from his father's house? without experience, unaccustomed to thinking, and only desiring to see fine sights. If he has not some knowledge of the constitution, laws, customs and manners of his own country, how shall he be able to institute a comparison between them and the constitution, laws, customs, and manners of other countries? If without such comparison, he, in all cases, gives the preference to England, it is merely the result of a prejudice for which he ought to blush; and equally foolish with the illiberal weakness of despising the customs and manners of one's own country, from an affected fondness for the manners and customs of foreigners.

WHAT a contemptible figure, my dear WILLIAM, must such a young man make in the eyes of sensible foreigners? where they expected an intelligent stranger, they find an overgrown boy, gazing at sign posts, and staring at every uncommon appearance. Though they may not have travelled, they may have read; though he is ignorant of their language, they may be acquainted with his—They question him of the constitution, antiquities, and present state of England—perhaps he may tell them that we are governed by a king and parliament, and that the lords and commons sit in different houses—He may tell them that Westminster-Hall, and the Tower, are fine buildings, and that we have many remains of antiquity in England—he may tell them

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it is a rich and plentiful country, and that we have many great patriots; but descend to particulars, he knows no more than the man in the moon. Speak of *Magna Charta*,—ask him by what measures this bulwark of the English liberties was obtained, by what means it has so long resisted the insidious attacks of arbitrary power, and he needs not to tell you that he has not yet read the history of his country. Ask him of the antiquities of Stone-henge, the temples of the Druids, the Roman encampments and military ways, he is as ignorant as a child. Ask him of the laws, customs, and manners of England, he may tell you they are excellent—exceed general questions, and he is mute.

HE gets a book of drawings, of the most celebrated foreign buildings, he is all impatience to see them—has he studied the rules of architecture?—no;—is he acquainted with the principles of drawing and perspective?—very little; but perhaps his tutor may have some knowledge of both—Ask him of saint STEPHEN'S Walbroke,—he never heard of it—ask him of the Banqueting-house,—he can tell you it stands below Charing-Cross—Ask him of saint PAUL'S,—he has been in the whispering-gallery, and can tell you how many steps it is higher than the floor of the church—Ask him of the Tower, he will tell you he has seen the lions, and all the fine sights there to be seen. Speak of INIGO JONES, sir CHRISTOPHER WREN, NEWTON, or
other

other great men, it is odds if he can tell for what branches of science they were distinguished." After this follows a long story, by way of exemplification, upon which I will not now enter—so you are to expect *more last words*—farewel!

L E T T E R X C I X .

To the same.

I KNOW you long for my lord's story—take it as follows—" I was present in a company where a young gentleman was just returned from an excursion into Scotland, with which, by the accounts he gave of it, he seemed to be much displeased. " It chiefly consisted of heath and moor, rugged hills, and bleak mountains; bad roads, dirty lodgings, coarse provisions, and a surly inhospitable people; no fences, scarce a tree to be seen, and the houses, even of the gentry and nobility, wretched hovels, not better than our best farm houses." It was a pretty numerous company, and many present were much pleased and edified with the traveller's remarks and observations, which were generally in the same spirit.

It happened however, that three gentlemen in company, besides myself, had been in Scotland; one of these very gravely asked the young man, Whe-

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ther he had ever been in Derbyshire? he acknowledged that he never had. "If you had, sir, you would have seen as rugged hills, as bleak mountains, and as long heath, as we find in any part of Scotland?" Another asked him, "Whether the highways leading to most of the large towns in Scotland had not been lately made or mended, and if he did not think them equal to any turnpike roads in England?" "It was true," he said, "but as little of the country was upon the level, one did not ride so much at his ease as in England." A third, who was well acquainted with the country, and with most of the inns upon the great roads, asked him particularly, "What accommodation he found at such and such houses." And excepting that, "the butter was not just to his mind in one, the bread in another, and the port and small beer at a third, he had little to object." The same gentleman asked him, "To whom in the country he had been recommended?" "I travelled *incog*," said he, "and chose not to be recommended to any body." "If you travelled *incog*, sir, what reason have you to take it amiss that the gentlemen of the country took no notice of you? If you had at your inns what you called for, I see not what further civility you had to expect. Whatever bad properties the Scotch may have, I must, from my own personal knowlege, pronounce them a hospitable people, and very obliging to strangers. As to their buildings, sir, there is no disputing of tastes—you may have seen more
farm

farm houses in England than I have, but I confess I have seen none equal to the duke of HAMILTON's house at Hamilton, the duke of ARGYLE's at Inverary, the duke of BUCCLEUGH's at Dalkeith, the earl of ABERCORN's at Duddieston, the earl of MURRAY's at Dunybrille, the earl of HOPETON's at Hopeton, the earl of FIFE's at Banff, or the earl of FINDLATER's at Cullen, and a thousand others that I could name, were it necessary. Scotland, sir, is not in all places, well supplied with wood, neither is England, but in many it has great abundance. If you have been at Perth, you must have seen a great deal of very thriving timber upon the earl of KINOUL's estate, and on several other estates in that neighbourhood. The earl of FIFE's fir woods in Aberdeenshire, are perhaps the finest in Europe; single trees have been there sold, fifty miles from the sea, or a navigable river, at five and six guineas a piece. The earl of ABOYN's woods of Glentanner, in the same county, are exceeded by very few; and the woods of sir ARCHIBALD GRANT of Monymusk, cover some thousands of acres, though all of them, a small natural oak and birch wood excepted, are of his own planting. The woods of Abernethy in Murrayshire, are very extensive, and furnish, besides excellent fir timber, great quantities of the very best oak for ship builders. I should be glad to know, sir, how this account of the matter, which I vouch to be strictly true, can be reconciled to your assertion, that there is scarce a

tree to be seen in the country?" The poor young man looked foolish, and the company, from mere compassion, turned the conversation to another subject.

THIS story, my dear nephew, in which I have been purposely minute, conveys a very important lesson to travellers; it is, that they speak with truth and candour of persons and places which they may have seen; as they may be thus checked when they do not expect it. It shows also of how little consequence it is to a young man to make the circuit of a country, to abuse drawers, and to be rude at inns, if he has not a moderate share of common sense, and is not recommended to some people of character, to assist and direct him as to those things in the country worthy to be seen and remembered. And this, by the by, puts me in mind of a question asked of the young traveller I have just mentioned, by the gentleman so well acquainted in Scotland; it was, "Whether, when in that country, he had seen ARTHUR'S oven?"—"No," said he, "but I saw ARTHUR'S feat." "That," said the other gentleman, "every man must see, who sees Edinburgh; the top of a hill is a conspicuous object, though not very rare." "I cannot think," said the young man, "that there can be much curious in the construction of an oven."—The gentleman smiled, but made no reply. You will know that the question pointed at the famous antiquity called ARTHUR'S oven, which
formerly

formerly stood upon the estate of sir MICHAEL BRUCE, near Falkirk; it was a very noble miniature of the celebrated Pantheon at Rome, and the wonder and delight of every man of taste; I feel for the gentleman who rashly suffered it to be demolished; I have been told he regrets it, and I am sure he must regret it to the last day of his life.

I HOPE, my dear WILLIAM, for better fruits from your travels, you have laid in better materials; and the worthy friend to whom I shall recommend you, is perfectly well qualified to advise and direct you in regard to every thing worthy your notice and observation. You have often heard me speak of him as a man of taste and genius; not more distinguished for the brilliancy of his parts, than for the probity of his manners, and the goodness of his heart; as the warmest friend, and the best companion. Studious to promote the interests of society, and deeply interested in the happiness of mankind. Improving his fortune by every generous, every humane method; assisting the settler, supporting the industrious manufacturer, and happier in giving, than they in receiving his aid. You will find a dignity in his sentiments, a force and elegance in his expression, and a modesty and simplicity in his manner, but rarely to be met with. He is never happier than when serving a friend, for which he always finds leisure; nor has the distinguished

tinguished office to which he was lately promoted, made the smallest alteration in his disposition or exterior conduct. Above the meanness of pride, and rightly judging, that if a man does not do honour to his place, the place can bring no credit to him. He has two brothers, to whom I know he will recommend you; the eldest, a man of great worth, and an excellent understanding; justly esteemed for the simplicity of his manners, and the probity of his life. Possessing an affluent fortune without vanity or ostentation, and rather the friend than the master of his numerous dependants. The youngest is a very sensible agreeable man, in every respect worthy the relation he bears to two such brothers. Never three more resembled one another in estimable qualities; never three lived upon better terms; and perhaps, never three were more universally esteemed. When you shall have the pleasure of knowing them as well as I do, you will find that I have not said too much.

I HAVE been too minute, my dear WILLIAM; forgive me, it is the foible of old age—Let me but add one advice, let me beg your attention to it, as of infinitely more importance than all the rest put together—it is, that you be ever mindful of your dependance upon God; shou'd he, for a moment, withdraw his supporting hand, we sink into nothing. In his protection only we are safe, in his favour only we can be happy. All that we
enjoy

enjoy in the present life, all that we hope for in the future, is of HIM, of whom are all things. He made us to be happy, let us not counter-act the gracious design of his providence. In our present state the best men must often offend ; not to be sensible of it is a mark of the greatest depravity, to be sensible of our faults, and not to endeavour to correct them, is a proof that we set no value upon the peace of our own minds. I shall expect to hear from you often—farewel, my dear nephew ; be careful of your health—you know of what importance your life is to your family and to me.”

Thus, my JULIE, I at last conclude my lord's long and affectionate letter, which being address'd to a young man, of much consideration, must, I think, be of great service to him. How would our friend lord MODISH relish such a paper of instructions ? Don't you think he would throw it into the fire, with an utter contempt of the old man's understanding and principles ? I believe his lordship had little trouble of this kind : his father was nearly as complete a fop as himself. He would not therefore caution his son against improprieties in conduct, which he had neither the sense to see, nor the judgment to condemn. During CROMWELL's usurpation, some of the clergy in the universities, under the denomination of *triers*, were appointed to try and examine candidates for the ministry—I could wish that *triers* were appointed by public authority, for
examining

examining young gentlemen about to travel: grace, or an inward call, is no more essential in the one case, than virtue and common sense in the other. If without the first institution, the honour of religion and the church is in danger; without the last, the honour of the country, and the credit of private families are in peril. Farewel, my JULIE,—love me, and be happy.

L E T T E R C.

To the same.

WHILE we were at breakfast this morning, my lord received a letter; he read it, and turning to my lady ARNOLD, "Alas! my dear," said he, "our friend Mr UPNOR is no more!"—The good old woman sighed, she pulled out her handkerchief, and was silent—After a little, "Well, my lord," said she, "we have few such friends to lose—he was a worthy man, and the world did him justice. A few years more, and nothing of this kind will disturb us."—"Thank you, my good angel," said his lordship, it is a seasonable hint!—The gentleman, my lady HARIET to whose memory my wife and I now pay the just tribute of a tear, was our friend for almost forty years, and a friend of sterling value. A man who in his whole life was never once charged with having said or done a thing below the character

rafter of a gentleman—a man of great dignity of sentiment and goodness of heart——a man who loved his friends, and wished all mankind happy—I see your ladyship affected, though you knew him not—what then must not we feel!——I should be glad all the world were acquainted with my friend's, character, though it would be no easy matter to do it justice; I have known very few so unexceptionable.

He succeeded early in life to a very genteel fortune, which his ancestors had long enjoyed, but which, by many concurring accidents, was become of much less value than it had been. When about two and twenty he married; the lady lived but a few years, and left him two daughters. During his widowhood he represented the county in several successive parliaments, and in his public character so conducted himself, that till he chose to retire, no gentleman in the county would have had any chance to dispossess him of his seat. During a long period, of the greatest venality, he neither got nor solicited place or pension; the interest of his country he steadily pursued, and without the noise and clamour of a pretended patriot, possessed all the virtues of a real one. In one word, the steadiness and integrity of his conduct procured him the esteem and approbation of all good men. When my friend retired from public life, he married again, and assiduously applied himself to the improvement of his fortune. One can scarce imagine that quality in a friend which Mr UPNOR had not;

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but what I chiefly valued in him, was his nice sense of honour, the steadiness of his friendship, and the unaffected benevolence of his heart; the first was never called in question, and of the second, he had the most honourable testimony, a few years ago—A gentleman, who in a public character did honour to his country, had been long Mr UPNOR's intimate friend; they had long lived as brothers. The gentleman died without heirs of his own body, and left the bulk of a handsome fortune to his friend; indeed the whole of it, excepting only some small legacies and memorandums to his other friends. Of his benevolence I could give your ladyship a thousand instances, though I shall mention but one,—Mr UPNOR greatly improved and beautified his policy, and a large farm contiguous to his house—He and I walked upon one corner of the farm, about ten years ago, when pointing to a farm house, which with the farm belonging to it, circumscribed his policy and improvements upon that side, “I intend,” said he, “to break that farm, and take part of it into my own; the remainder I shall let to the poor men who now depend upon the farmer. If I thus disaccommodate one great man, I shall have it in my power to oblige his vassals.”

SOME years thereafter he and I were upon the same spot, when I observed to him that the farm and farm house stood as formerly—“Very true, my lord,” said he;—“the people and their ancestors
have

have lived there a great while—I should have been glad to have had the farm, but they pled hard to be continued in the possession—I could not turn them out—better one's eye be a little hurt, than do a hard thing to poor people.”—How few, my lady HARIET, how very few can thus put themselves in the place of others!—in my opinion, a little story of this kind shews a man more, than giving liberally to twenty public charities, where the motive may be so easily mistaken. My friend, by his second wife, has left several children, sons and daughters—his eldest son is a very promising youth;—I cannot wish him better than to be what his worthy father was.” I was charmed with the sensibility of this venerable couple, and sincerely shared in their concern—Thus far, with a perpetual memory of his virtues, is justly due to every good man. But, my JULIE, our grief upon these occasions is frequently carried to a blameable excess—It would seem that we believed our friends made to live, and enjoy life, for at least a century, though daily observation might convince us, that not one of many thousands attains the quarter part of that period. We know that extreme old age hath often reduced the greatest men to a pitiable state of weakness, both in body and mind; why then should we desire it for our friends?—Why grieve so much, to see a man, who for many years, acted his part on the stage of life with honour and applause, called off by the GREAT MASTER of the drama before

he begins to play the fool in his old age? while his faculties are entire, his character in high esteem. Is not this the very time when a man of sense would chuse to leave the world? Sympathy for the infirmities of old age, is an amiable virtue; it tends much to alleviate its distresses. But it is a virtue, the bare prospect of which must be extremely mortifying to a sensible mind, which, I think, would desire to be no longer concerned in the busy scenes of this world, than it can relish society, and, with some degree of propriety, discharge the relative duties of life. It is a common phrase, "I have lost a friend," but it is improper in every sense but one; when a friend's vices, or our own, have rendered us unworthy the esteem of one another. Death is the consummation of friendship; he that dies my friend must be my friend for ever; for thanks to the gracious POWER who made us! our views are not confined within the narrow limits of time;

———his parent hand,
 From the mute shell-fish gasping on the shore,
 To men, to angels, to celestial minds
 For ever leads the generations on
 To higher scenes of being.

How happy shall you and I be, my dear JULIE,
 if, when the providence of GOD calls us hence, we
 leave the world with irreproachable characters,
 and in the good opinion and esteem of our friends?
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What beyond this have we to hope here?—farewell!—be virtuous and be happy.

L E T T E R C I.

To the same.

JACK ELTON dined here the other day, whom perhaps you may remember to have seen at my brother's house; he is just returned from making the grand tour, and both himself and servants were drest *tout a la mode de Paris*. He never promised much, and is now become quite insupportable: arrogant, vain, and an eternal talker. His father, a good enough sort of man, bating his vanity and strong desire of raising his family, died about three years ago, and left his son an estate of four thousand pounds *per annum*, with the burthen only of his mother's jointure, and moderate provisions to two sisters, both younger than himself. He left Oxford sometime before his father's death, where he had been for several years, under the care of a private tutor, who had express orders not to cramp his pupil in his religious principles, nor to restrain him in any decent liberties proper for a young man of family and fortune; injunctions, which I imagine have been fully attended to.

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HIS father was scarce cold in the grave, when his mother, a woman of consummate vanity, urged him to prepare for seeing the world; she seemed to think it a reproach for a man of fortune to succeed to an estate before he had travelled. He accordingly set out in a few months, and has been something more than two years abroad. It would divert you much to hear this young traveller talk of his intimacy with the first people at the different courts he has visited; of the notice taken of him by the ministry; of the balls he gave the ladies, and of the attention every where paid to him. He speaks of the politeness, the freedom and gaiety of the French nation with rapture; if the English have any merit, it arises intirely from their wish, to imitate the manners and customs of that elegant people, who, of all others, best know how to make the most of life. He observed that religion, which in other countries is cloathed with terror, is in France debonaire and agreeable, that it claimed no more but to regulate the interior, and left men the liberty to live as they pleased, provided only that they profess an external regard for the church, and much reverence for the clergy"—A pretty compliment this, to the national religion! and I think not unnatural in one who travels without any fixed principles; don't you think, my JULIE, that such travellers are well qualified to become the guardians of our civil and religious liberties in the House of Commons?

TAKE

TAKE what follows as a specimen of the young gentleman's conversation—"I was one night," said he, "engaged to sup with the marquis *de Routire*, when just as I was about to step into the carriage, a card was put into my hand from the *duc de Boulman*, requesting my attendance, to make one at a party at cards—I had been much obliged to the duke, I wished to gratify him, and therefore sent a message to the marquis desiring to be excused, in respect of a prior engagement, which most unfortunately had escaped me—Scarce was the servant five minutes gone, when I had a card from the countess *de Malvoulai*, asking me to sup at her house with some ladies of the first quality, and absolutely discharging all apologies as inadmissible—I was distressed, I was exceedingly distressed—To break with the duke was hard—to disoblige the lady would be rude; it was impossible—I fell upon a happy expedient—I drove directly to the duke's *hotel*, and whispered in his ear, that a friend of mine had an *affair amoureuse* upon hand, in which I had been previously engaged—"Monsieur Anglois," said he, "we shall be a dull company without you; but where love and friendship are concerned, every thing else must give place."

THUS, my JULIE, the gentleman still stares you in the face; thus is he always the little hero of his own tale; and thus, supposing there is any truth in names and circumstances, which I very much

much doubt, by the trouble of writing a card and telling a few innocent falsehoods, he got clear of all his embarrassments.

AN elderly gentleman, one captain HOWARD, a relation of Mr ELTON's, was along with him; the VICAR was also with us, but my lord being indisposed, was not at dinner. Captain HOWARD is a man of a very different character, modest, sensible, and religious. He took little share in the conversation, but allowed his relation to conduct us from one court to another, till some sarcasms thrown out against the Christian religion, roused his attention; when turning to the young gentleman with a half bent brow, "JACK" said he, "let me whisper in your ear, that a jest pointed at religion, like a ball thrown against a pavement, always rebounds upon the author; you are very witty, but remember, that every man of honour holds his religion dear." "Undoubtedly he does sir." "Then it would seem yours is not the religion of your country." "Pardon me, sir, there is not a more orthodox believer in England, I make it a rule always to believe as the church believes." "A very convenient travelling principle," said the VICAR, "but in England, sir, we don't insist upon so much complaisance, people here are allowed to think a little for themselves." "People may every where think, Doctor, though they cannot in all places express their
sentiments

sentiments with equal safety." "I should imagine, Mr ELTON," rejoined the VICAR, "that no man could desire a greater liberty of speech than we in England have; is a man a bit the worse received in polite company, that he has, for a course of years, shown an open contempt for the religion of his country? that he has railed against the established laws, and abused the most respectable characters?"

"I MUST agree with the DOCTOR," said captain HOWARD, "that we enjoy very ample liberty of speech, more indeed than, at all times, turns out to our advantage; for, in my opinion, we seem in a fair way of talking ourselves out of every principle moral and religious. Mens sentiments of religion may be different, but when they talk of it, decency requires that it be with the respect due to a subject so important. A well bred man would not chuse to give pain to others, because they are less enlightened than himself."

"Neither," said Mr ELTON, "would he wish to countenance their prejudices by his silence." "To speak the truth, JACK," said the captain, "I don't apprehend that your countenance or mine are of very great importance to religion; nor I imagine could it suffer much though both of us should renounce all pretensions to it." "Be that as it will, I have no intention to make the trial—I would not chuse to be pointed to as an oddity—or to lose the privilege of voting at elections—No body would

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wish to be disqualified for the commission of the peace—or precluded from having a seat in parliament.”

“VERY catholic motives,” said the VICAR, “and like enough to have much influence with those who have seen the world, and are acquainted with the writings of VOLTAIRE.” “That pleasure I have,” said Mr. ELTON, “and I think, DOCTOR, you must allow him to be a very fine writer.” “Most readily, sir.” “That he has said many shrewd things against human impositions.” “True.” “And that he has set the danger and futility of vulgar prejudices in a stronger light than perhaps any other man ever did.” “No man more capable, no pen more at the service of the public.” I forsee, my JULIE, that I cannot, in one letter, say all that I would say, and therefore wish you patience to read what I have already written—farewel!—

L E T T E R CII.

To the same.

“DOCTOR,” said Mr. ELTON, “you make very candid allowances, your sentiments of VOLTAIRE seem pretty much to coincide with my own”—“I admit him a very elegant writer,”

writer," said the VICAR, "but all this notwithstanding, I will venture to say, he will never be able to persuade himself that the reputation he has got by writing against the Christian religion is worth the cost." "The cost, sir!" "Yes, sir, the cost; when a man sits down to write against facts or principles, which may be true, and which he cannot possibly demonstrate to be false, by just reasoning and inference, and yet treats the matters he would confute as mere fictions, he offers violence to his own mind, which no man ever did with impunity, A man at odds with himself cannot be happy; for I maintain, that an hour's peace of mind is of more real value than a thousand years adulation of all the wits and libertines in Europe. If he happens to be personally concerned in the truth or falsehood of those things he writes against, his feelings must be in proportion to his uncertainty, and the danger apprehended from being on the wrong side of the question. Were his character as a man of sense, and a member of society, only to be affected by such conduct, the approbation his labours might meet with from part of mankind, would be a sort of compensation; but if there is a future state, in which men are accountable for their conduct in the present, and should those things happen to be true, which with so much zeal and industry he had endeavoured to prove false, where shall such a man appear!—If meekness, humility, and self-denial be dispositions pre-requisite to happiness

in that state, can the fruit be expected, where the root is not?"—

"I KNOW not, sir, how far VOLTAIRE's mind may be reconciled to his own conduct, nor shall I take upon me to vindicate every thing he has said against the Christian religion; he may have some times gone too great lengths, but I think it appears, from the very face of his works, that he has a veneration for the DEITY, and a heart full of benevolence to mankind. He hath always been distinguished as a warm friend of liberty, and, as far as I know, is of a moral life; which is more than can justly be said of great numbers who seem to regard his principles and writings with horror."

"I AM far, Mr ELTON, from charging VOLTAIRE with atheism, nor would I even accuse him of a malignant intention against religion; in some of his writings, I admit there are strong indications of benevolence—witness his generous and spirited defence of the unfortunate Calas's family. But while I make these just concessions, I cannot but condemn the constant misapplication of his great talents, and his unwearied attempts to set mankind loose from every tie, religious, social, or moral. Had he only attacked bigotry, hypocrisy, and superstition, I should have wished him success with all my soul; but has he not, by every art which a keen wit and a lively imagination could suggest, endeavoured to throw into the
light

light of ridicule a religion, which, he himself being judge, breathes nothing but love and charity to mankind?—Hath he not, by every sinister method, endeavoured to wound a character upon which the accumulated endeavours of innumerable enemies, during the course of almost eighteen hundred years, have not been able to fix the least blot—A character, by whose precepts and example many millions have been enlightened, many millions restrained from vice, and allured to virtue—A character whose doctrines alone could have so much enlightened the minds of those who write against them—Can the views which the scriptures give of God and religion, be but equally agreeable to the liberal and enlarged mind of VOLTAIRE, with the views given of both in the mythology of Greece and Rome, or in the Alcoran of Mahomet? I think it is impossible—Can he regret, as I think he must regret, the gross ignorance and superstition which reign peaceably where the Christian religion does not prevail, and not rejoice in the knowledge and sentiment observable where it does?

THE Christian religion has not indeed extirpated ignorance and superstition from among mankind, they unhappily prevail in many places where it is profest; but a few cases excepted, they prevail much less than in Pagan and Mahometan countries. It is address'd to the reason of mankind, and as moral

ral agents, they may chuse or reject it; a candid inquirer will distinguish between the abuse of a religion, and the natural tendency of its doctrines and precepts. Shall we charge to the account of the Christian religion the vices and weaknesses of those who profess it. With equal justice and propriety, would we charge the cruelty of NERO, or the beastly qualities of HELIOGABULUS, upon the laws of the twelve tables. When we think of the great FIRST CAUSE we cannot too far extend our ideas of perfection and excellence; in him they are necessary and essential. But were we acquainted with every rank in the descending scale of rational beings, we would probably see cause to believe them gradually less perfect and excellent. The writers against revelation seem to look for absolute perfection in all those whom the SUPREME BEING occasionally employs upon extraordinary occasions, such as the revelation of his will to mankind, or the propagation of doctrines so revealed; hence they are hurt, if persons invested with this public character do, upon any occasion, betray marks of human frailty; and stay not to distinguish between personal weakness, and the steadfast and upright intention of faithfully discharging the duties of their mission.

SANCTITY of life will not gain belief to doctrines that do not recommend themselves by their propriety and excellence; nor will a man's piety induce others to believe his extraordinary predictions;
for

for this plain reason, that one may be truly pious without having the spirit of prophecy; nothing but the accomplishment of, at least, some of those predictions can gain credit to the rest. Subject as we are to so many jarring passions, exposed to so many dangers, and surrounded with so many objects to lead us astray, an impeccable state is scarce conceivable here. Why therefore should we look for perfection in any man? Establish it as a rule, that no imperfect being deserves credit, and you destroy all faith among mankind. It is observable, that the inspired writers, claim no exemption from the common frailties of mankind; but, with great humility, from their own weakness, draw an argument in favour of God's irresistible power, which, by their ministry, brings such mighty things to pass." To do Mr ELTON justice, I must acknowledge that he gave great attention to what the VICAR said, and I think, with a very good grace, thus concluded the argument, "I admit sir, that there is much appearance of candour in what you have said, your character and experience enable you to see these matters in a clearer light, than one at my time of life can possibly see them; and, I hope, from this conversation, I shall learn an useful lesson, not to indulge a practice which I cannot defend."

I FOUND myself extremely interested in this conversation, and was charmed with the gravity and dignity with which the VICAR expressed his sentiments.

Would

Would to God our holy religion were always defended with equal candour and temper!—It cannot be promoted by the illiberal effusions of intemperate zeal. Let us, my dear JULIE, whatever objections infidel writers may start against revelation, value it as a light shining in a dark place, till death, the great teacher, introduce us to that happy land where shadows fly away; subtle and falacious reasonings may deceive us, our own feelings rarely do; we are conscious of our own weakness, and we feel the necessity of supernatural aids—Let us rejoice that they have been afforded to mankind. How much meaning is comprised in this couplet of doctor YOUNG?

“’Tis health that keeps an atheist in the dark,
A fever argues better than a Clark.”

FAREWEL,—be virtuous, and be happy.

L E T T E R CIII.

To the same.

CAPTAIN HOWARD's conversation and behaviour were so agreeable, that I wished to be better acquainted with his character, and with this view I applied to my never failing source of intelligence. His lordship very obligingly put into
my

my hands a little memoir, of which I now send you a copy.

"CAPTAIN HOWARD is the son of a worthy clergyman of the established church, who besides a decent living, enjoyed a considerable property in lands. His wife had a brother in the army, who, by his own merit, had risen to the rank of a lieutenant colonel; and, by his interest, their son got an ensignie in the same regiment, in his sixteenth year. The COLONEL, though a man of great personal bravery, was so good natured, and so fond of society, that he was not the fittest person in the world to command others: he could scarce bear to have a private man punished, and indulged the inferior officers with rather too much liberty. He had been always extremely fond of his nephew, who was also his nameson, and therefore, besides his pay, supplied him liberally with spending money. Several of the subalterns were the sons of men of fortune, and lived at a rate very disproportioned to their pay; they were fond of young HOWARD, and had him at all their parties of pleasure; perhaps they took the more notice of him on account of his relation to their colonel. Though Mr HOWARD had a sober and religious education, he early began to be corrupted by the loose conversation and dissipated example of these thoughtless young men, who gave full swing to their passions, and indulged every appetite; the

usual consequence of having more money than prudence.

A PROFLIGATE young fellow, for whom his relations had bought a pair of colours to get rid of him, was indefatigable in his endeavours to corrupt the rest; he was addicted to almost every vice which could reproach a man, and to render his character the more infamously dangerous, he was at the same time a consummate hypocrite. In the company of his superiors and seniors, modest and well behaved; at all other times giving the rein to his passions, and turning every thing sacred and serious into ridicule. He was however so guarded in his exterior conduct, that he had done infinite mischief before people could be persuaded that he was not the best behaved young man in the regiment. If he had planned a riot, and in person conducted every step, the moment the officers of justice appeared, he would deliver up his sword, and with much seeming concern, assist in securing his associates. They were instructed not to be surpris'd at this, for being master of the revels, he told them, it was necessary for him to save appearances, when matters came to an extremity. He was at last detected, and on an application to the war-office, from a gentleman whose daughter he had seduced, dismiss'd from the service. Mr HOWARD had been about three years in the regiment, when, by his relation's good offices, he got a company;

pany; in the command of which he continued for ten years longer, when he retired upon half pay. By the dissipated life he led while in the army, his principles had been much shaken; so much indeed, that for several years after he settled in the country, he was looked upon as a man who had no regard for religion: if no body had been with him throughout the week, he was sure to have company on the Sunday, when he would play cards, and freely indulge himself in every common amusement. He never went to church, and if any of his servants claimed that privilege, they were sure to be turned off at next term. Mr HILLINGTON, a young gentleman much about the same age, who had lately succeeded to an estate in the neighbourhood, was his inseparable companion; they equally contemned religion, and had mutually agreed to assist one another in extirpating the remotest traces of it from their minds.

WHILE they walked together in the fields one summer evening, the sky was suddenly overcast, the lightning flashed from one end of the heavens to the other, and through the vaulted horizon the thunder tremendous rolled along. "WILL," said captain HOWARD, "this is terrible!"—" 'Tis most agreeable," said the other—and at that instant the lightning killed two horses, at less than twenty yards distance.—The gentlemen stood motionless—both lifted up their eyes to heaven—but neither of

them could utter a single word. The surprize a little over, they hastened to the house, and for a full hour, were almost persuaded to make their peace with heaven. Captain HOWARD's mind was so strongly impress'd with the danger he had escaped, that he could be no company. "I find," said he, "there are times when the stoutest of us all are cowards; as much, I am afraid, from within as from without." "What! turned religious," said HILLINGTON—"so much alarmed at the casual explosion of a few congregated vapours?"—"I stand corrected, WILL—but in sober earnest, such is the unconquerable force of prejudice, that in the case of a sudden surprize we must think with the vulgar—perhaps, my friend, they do not always think amiss—let us take the utmost pains to shake off the belief of invisible powers, we cannot possibly shake off the dread of them." "If we cannot shake it off, let us drown it in a bottle." "But when the bottle is out—in awful darkness—in sickness—at the hour of death."—"I never anticipate evils which I cannot prevent." In such discourse they spent the evening—such are the enjoyments, such the prospects of unprincipled minds."

HERE, my JULIE, I make a break, as what yet remains of the manuscript will make another letter. A text of scripture comes now across my mind—*Blessed is he that feareth always.*—A strange expression this!—can there be any blessedness in being

ing continually under the influence of this uneasy passion?—Yes; a great deal, for to him that feareth to offend God, nothing besides is terrible. Farewel, my JULIE, be virtuous and be happy.

L E T T E R C I V.

To the same.

I PROCEED to give you the conclusion of the little manuscript—"Mr HILLINGTON had been to dine with a neighbouring gentleman, where he had drunk too freely; he rode an unruly horse, and in his way home, was thrown and broke his leg. A message was immediately sent to captain HOWARD, who was with his friend in a few hours. A surgeon had been called, and had tied up the limb before the captain got there; when he entered the room where Mr HILLINGTON lay, the latter putting forth his hand, with a broken voice pronounced these uncomfortable words, "I believe, HOWARD, I am overtaken"—"Have courage, my dear WILL," said the other, "I hope there is no danger in your case"—"My own mind tells me that there is; I shall certainly fever; and, in one of so full a habit, a mortification is justly to be feared." "You must not, my dear friend, indulge these apprehensions, they would impede your recovery." "I cannot account for it, but from the moment I fell, I have

have reckoned myself a dead man." "My dear, sir, breaking a limb is a very common accident, of which not one in a hundred dies." "Your observation may be just, but I cannot draw comfort from it—you must not leave me HOWARD." "I will not my friend, till you are out of danger."

Mr HILLINGTON was all that night hot and restless, and by next morning strong symptoms of an approaching fever appeared. While his friend sat by him after breakfast, he desired every body else to leave the room, when he thus addressd him, "My dear HOWARD, I feel the gradual approaches of a fever, which I know will cut me off—perhaps in a few hours I shall be deprived of that reason which I have employed to so little good purpose. I have thought of you upon my pillow,—let me talk to you while I am able.—My fate is determined—yours is still in your own hands—We have mutually hurt one another, we have staked our all, against trifles lighter than vanity."—"My dear HILLINGTON," said captain HOWARD, "your thoughts are perfectly gloomy, where is that strength of mind which formerly set you so much above vulgar prejudices?"—"Prejudices! my dear, HOWARD," said he, "prejudices!" repeated he, with a deep sigh, "I am afraid that mistaken word has undone us. How often have you and I laughed at the prejudices of the simple peasant, who thinks himself obliged to thank God for every poor morsel he puts in his mouth?"

mouth?—O HOWARD! there is a dignity, there is a propriety in the poor man's conduct, which I now see—What helpless, what dependant beings are we, and yet"—[*here both began to be so much affected, that a short pause ensued*]"—“and yet, my friend, we act as if we were always secure in our own strength, and had no manner of dependance upon GOD—But why, alas! should I mention a name, which I have so often blasphemed?—I have denied his providence, and abused the good things thrown into my lot—I am overtaken—I have no hope left.”——

“MY dear HILLINGTON, talk not in this manner, GOD is merciful”——“I know he is, he could not else have borne with me so long; but I know he is also just, and therefore must vindicate the honour of his laws.—Alas! HOWARD, you have at present but little to hope for yourself, I have still less; and can you bid me hope?—I remember the time when I believed and hoped—when the comforts of religion were something to my soul—I had a religious education! the thoughts of this distracts me, the thoughts of it will be my hell for ever!—O HOWARD that I had been less favoured, or less guilty!—Shall I mention a book which I have so often ridiculed?—I dare not—you may read it, it is too late for me—If the SAVIOUR there spoken of, I dare not call him mine, be indeed what he is said to be, what your father and mine believed him to be, then wo unto us!—The fever grows every moment stronger and stronger

stronger—my skin is parcht—my pulse beats hard—my heart fails—O my friend! may your exit be happier than mine!” The poor gentleman but too justly suspected the danger of his own case, for in a few hours the fever had increased so much, that he became quite delirious.

In this miserable state he continued for four days, but on the morning of the fifth, the violence of the disease abated, and after about two hours rest, he awoke exceedingly refreshed, and perfectly restored to the use of his reason. His friend had scarce been two hours at a time from his bed-side—when he awoke he sat by him. “My dear HOWARD,” said he, “do I once more behold you!”—“You do, my dear friend, and I hope we shall be long happy together.”—“That must not be,” said the other, “but since the GOOD BEING, whose laws I have so much contemned, has once more restored me to myself, I would hope further if I durst—I would hope to share in that mercy which extends to the whole creation.—I have done amiss, I have done greatly amiss, but the mercy of heaven is unlimited.”—“It is, my dear friend, it is,” said captain HOWARD, “indulge the pleasing thought!—These have been four dismal days to me, I have scarce suffered less than you have—God hath made you the happy instrument of recalling me to a sense of my duty—my mind is now perfectly at rest, and I hope we shall bless him for ever for the wholesome severity

rity of this correction." "O HOWARD! you pour oil into my wounds! may my friend be happy! but if your distress of mind has been in any degree comparable to mine, tell me my friend, tell me to what happy expedient you owe your present tranquility?"

"I HAVE called myself to a severe account, I detest, and have renounced my former course of life, I have firmly resolved to return to the paths of virtue, and have thrown myself absolutely upon the mercy of heaven. That sacred book, which you and I have so unjustly condemned and undervalued, assures us that the SUPREME BEING hath no pleasure in the death of a sinner, but rather willeth that he should turn from his wickedness and live. That DIVINE TEACHER, whom I hope we shall now learn to prize, came into the world to save sinners; for them he submitted to poverty and contempt; for them he cheerfully put up with every possible inconvenience—for them he died."

"Alas! my friend, I have sinned beyond forgiveness—I have spoken of this SAVIOUR and his religion with contempt and derision—if by him we must be saved, I am still undone!"—"Think it not, my dear HILLINGTON, think it not—nothing but our vices can separate between him and us—One of his most intimate personal attendants denied him, thrice denied him with oaths—all of them forsook him and fled—they saw their error, they returned to their duty—they are happy."

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"Go on, my dear friend, go on, I could hear you for ever!—O the impudence of health!—O the madness and folly of mankind!"—"We must not talk so much," said captain HOWARD, "it may bring on a return of the fever; I hope we shall have many happy opportunities of talking over these important matters hereafter." Mr HILLINGTON continued so easy all that day, that the surgeon proposed to untie the bandage of his leg, which could not be done during the violence of the fever. It was accordingly untied, when the inflammation was observed to be so much increased, that the surgeon, in the mildest terms he could conceive, expressed his apprehension of danger, from a mortification already begun, and observed that there was no security, but from an immediate amputation of the limb. "I would," said Mr HILLINGTON, "cheerfully submit to the operation, but that I know immediate death would be the consequence; I could not stand it—I know I shall now die, and would therefore wish to enjoy in peace the few days or hours of life that may remain. His resolution was fixed—the surgeon withdrew—captain HOWARD was bathed in tears.

"WHY, my dear HOWARD, why," said Mr HILLINGTON, "will you distress me by your grief;—we were born to die, and sooner or later can make no great odds—Alas! my friend, how often have you and I endeavoured to persuade ourselves that

that death is an end of our being?—I say, endeavoured, for the soul, conscious of its dignity, revolted against the ignoble thought——How often have we laughed at the serious discourses and apprehensions ascribed to dying men, and charged them to the account of bodily weakness?—Behold in me, O my friend! a striking proof of the folly and absurdity of such rash conclusions—racked with pain, and unable to turn myself upon my bed, my thoughts are as clear, my soul as vigorous as ever—conscious of its own immortality, it regards the ruins of the body with indifference—I now see the world in its true light—I see the futility of those pursuits in which I was formerly engaged—Many, perhaps, have envied my fortune and attendance—of what value are they now!—Can they alleviate my pains?—can they prolong life one hour? O HOWARD! he was truly wise who said, vanity of vanities! all is vanity!—this is the sum total of all sublunary enjoyments, whatever they appear, in this they must end at last.

MR HILLINGTON then sent for his attorney, by whose advice, and his friend captain HOWARD'S, he settled his worldly affairs. He forgave his poor tenants their arrears; where the leases were expired he gave new ones; to six poor widows he gave ten pounds a-year each for life; he bequeathed two hundred pounds, for the maintenance and

education of poor orphans on his own estate; and to each of his servants he gave a year's wages. He had a fine collection of prints; these, with his library, he left to captain HOWARD, with this injunction—"I am sorry, my friend, that among the books and prints you will find many contrary to decency and good manners; these, had I recovered, I had resolved to expunge,—all such I commit to your vengeance.—spare them not—thus may all the enemies of religion and morality perish!—I know, my friend, that by this, and several other things in my conduct upon this occasion, I shall expose myself to the sneers and contempt of many of our acquaintance; but I appeal from their present thoughts to their sentiments when in my situation. I have something to propose, but am almost ashamed to mention it—my parish minister is a worthy man—I have always been upon decent terms with him, but my manner of life has reproached religion and distressed him—How can I see him!—and yet I desire it much."

"MY dear Mr HILLINGTON," said captain HOWARD, "the gentleman has sent every day to enquire after you, and I dare say would be extremely happy to do you any service in the way of his profession."—He was sent for, and being a man of good sense and exemplary piety, knew so well how to apply the comforts of religion, that by his conversation and seasonable advice, Mr HILLINGTON'S

TON'S mind was at last settled in a calm and firm dependance upon the mercy of GOD, through the grace of the gospel. The gentleman died a few days after, and by his own express desire, was privately interred in the family vault. From this remarkable period in his life, captain HOWARD has been a new man; the same well bred gentleman, the same chearful and agreeable friend; but the avowed enemy of every species of vice and irreligion; regular in his conduct, and pious in his life; wishing the happiness of all mankind, and always ready to promote it. Soon after his friend's death, he married a lady of great worth, with whom he lives happily." Thus endeth the little memoir, which I imagine you will thank me for transcribing—Farewel my JULIE,—let us always remember, that virtue's ways are pleasantness, and all her paths peace.

L E T T E R CV.

To the same.

MY lord had a letter from his nephew yesterday, of which he very obligingly allowed me to take a copy; I inclose it for your amusement, but would not wish it lost.

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" I HAD the honour to write to your lordship from Berwick, and arrived at Edinburgh next day. It was my first care to call upon the gentleman to whom your lordship did me the honour to recommend me, who received me in the most courteous and polite manner; he is indeed, all that you say, all that one could desire in a friend. He does not now live in town, but has a villa, and a small farm, a few miles distant, where he constantly resides, when in this part of the country. It stands upon an eminence, and has a delightful prospect of the castle, the firth of forth, the distant mountains, and a great number of villages and gentlemens seats around. Here, he breathes a pure and wholesome air, doubly sweet, when one turns his eyes to the clouds of smoke which constantly hang over the adjacent city. Here, he enjoys himself and his friend, without much minding whether stocks rise or fall, or what party shall be in or out.

HE and I have taken a ride every forenoon since I have been here, and he has done me the honour to introduce me to several gentlemen in the neighbourhood, who have visited at his house, or upon whom we called in our ride. I am charmed with the easy and agreeable manner in which he lives; equally respected by all, from people of the first rank to the decent farmers in his neighbourhood; they are equally welcome to his table, and treated with equal hospitality and complaisance. As the Court
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of Session was not sitting when I was last at Edinburgh, I was very desirous of seeing that learned body proceeding in the dispatch of business; and yesterday forenoon your friend and I were in the front of the gallery, when a cause of some importance got the last hearing, and was finally determined. Thereafter other two causes, of less consequence, were heard. I need not say a word of the form of procedure; in what order the judges sit; or of the institution of this supreme and august court; as your lordship is well acquainted with all these particulars.

WHAT struck me most was the elegance and propriety with which the English language is spoken at the bar; and the very genteel figure that the council make. They enter warmly into their client's cause, and many of them speak with great force and energy; one would almost think that each pled for his own property. I thought one gentleman had a bad cause, yet he said many strong things for his client—I began to think he had been hardly used by the gentleman who spake before on the other side—the gentleman sat down, when a third arose, a young gentleman of a very decent appearance, who spoke on the same side with the first, and overturned every argument advanced by the last speaker. At last the judges resumed the cause, who seemed to agree not much better than the council at the bar, the matter however was determined by a considerable

ble majority. Here, my lord, I could not help making a few reflections—If young gentlemen, who practise at the bar, let themselves out to plead all causes, must they not be often on the wrong side? I do not mean the losing side, for this, I am afraid, may sometimes happen to be the right one; but the side, which from their own knowledge and reflection, they must know to be litigious and unjust. And, if this ever is the case, must not the practise be of the most dangerous consequence to society? Has it not an obvious tendency to unhinge the principles of such pleaders, to confound their ideas of right and wrong, and consequently to make those laws which were made for our protection, an engine of the most cruel oppression; for such, of all others, oppression under the form of law must be.

I KNOW, my lord, it will be said, that it is the business of council to set their client's case in the strongest and most favourable point of view; that they must take, and warrantably may take the facts as the parties represent them, and therefore cannot be accountable for the truth or falsehood of them. I admit this a good defence, where the matter is plausible, or even doubtful; but my lord, do not innumerable causes come before all courts, where no honest man can be at a loss to determine on which side the truth is? and yet the very worst finds pleaders. I should think a man of honour would scarce allow himself to plead a cause warmly, when
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he had the remotest doubt of its rectitude; what then must we think of those who prostitute their talents, and dishonour their hearts, by supporting a suspicious, or obviously bad one, with a zeal and warmth only commendable, only allowable in the defence of injured truth and innocence? It is a privilege to be heard by council, many an honest man is incapable of defending his own cause; and it is a noble distinction to be qualified to support the rights of the injured and oppressed. I should think, my lord, that a pecuniary reward would be much less to a generous mind than the pleasure which must arise from supporting the interests of truth and virtue; saving a poor man from the fatal consequences of his own imprudence, or from the devouring jaws of the merciless oppressor. It is in these cases, my lord, that eloquence should triumph; it is in these cases its thunders should be pointed to smite the guilty, and to strike the rod from the hand of the proud oppressor. In these cases, its gentle strains, and sweetly flowing periods are gracefully employed, to sooth the pangs of innocence, and heal the wounds which virtue hath received. In every case besides, victory is reproachful; we may commend the pleader, but must despise the man.

BUT, my lord, it may be still further said, "that the public has little to fear from this abuse of great talents; it is the business of judges to guard individuals against the danger of popular eloquence,

to distinguish between declamation and argument, and always to determine on the side of truth." Very true, my lord, but judges may be, and often have been imposed upon by artful and fallacious reasoning; perhaps, though it is scarce decent to suppose it, some weak men have been raised to this high station; all men are liable to prejudice and mistakes, and therefore the utmost reverence for truth should ever prevail within those walls, where the lives and properties of men are the great subjects of deliberation: a falsehood told, a truth concealed here, strikes at the root of society, dares the MAJESTY of heaven, and should be punished in the most public and exemplary manner.

AFTER we got home, I hinted something of these reflexions to your friend, who seems to see the matter in the same light. "I knew a gentleman at the bar," said he, "who made it a rule to undertake no cause which he did not believe to be just and honest; to be satisfied of which, he very strictly examined the parties who came to consult with him. He had perhaps less practice than some others, but he had enough, with his other funds, to support him decently, and his mind never reproached him with a victory at the expence of truth and justice. His character had weight with the judges; they reasonably concluded, that a cause in which he would appear, deserved their most serious attention. He spoke with great perspicuity
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and precision, disdained all subterfuges, and would follow no man's example in long perplexed papers, and abusive language: his causes were therefore, generally, soon determined; he used to say, that, "truth was simple, and sophistry and a multiplicity of words her greatest enemies; let her be seen, and she must always prevail." I knew him once imposed upon; it was, in procuring what we here call a bill of suspension, which is an interim order from a judge in the supreme court, to stop proceedings, till the matter is further heard. The reasons given in by the party for whom my friend pled, turned out to be utterly false, and therefore the writ was reduced. The man again came to consult his council on the same cause,—“Go,” said he, “and learn to set a just value upon truth, or find another to plead your cause, I thank God, I can eat at a less expence than that of supporting falsehood.”—“I am afraid, my lord, I shall get into the way of writing long letters—Let me always be happy in your lordship's good opinion!”

L E T T E R CVI.

To the same.

THE VICAR dined here yesterday, on his return from a neighbouring parish, where he had been, with two other clergymen, by ap-

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pointment of the DEAN, to examine into some complaints against the minister. My lord, who had heard the matter talked of, desired to know how the proof had turned out? "I must own," said the VICAR, "not much to the honour of the cloath; the poor man has given up the necessary regard to decency, keeps the lowest company, and freely indulgeth an inclination to drinking, gaming, and almost every common vice. The sober part of the parish have been long hurt by his example, he has often been cautioned against the errors of his conduct, but without effect. Complaints had been formerly given in against him, but some who sit easy under his ministry, stood by him, and by their interest diverted the storms that threatened him. About two months ago he happened to be at a public house, on a Saturday night, with a very exceptionable company, which did not break up before five in the morning. When the bell rung for church, he was but just got up, and so much out of order that he could scarce stand upright—it was given out that he was indisposed; the people were dismiss.

BUT as the cause of his indisposition was well known to many, a fresh complaint was given in to the BISHOP, signed by great numbers; which did not rest upon a single fact, but charged him with the habitual practice of drinking, gaming, and keeping low company. He acknowledged that he was
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in the company, but endeavoured to prove, by some of those present, that he left them, quite sober, at eleven at night; as to his indisposition on the Sunday morning, he brought a proof that he was subject to sudden vertigoes and swimings in his head. But, my lord, I must observe, that those who vouched for their minister's sobriety, were men of a bad character, and clearly convicted of falsehood, by the testimony of others who had been present in the company; these last agreed with the former, that he left the room about eleven o'clock, but acknowledged that he rejoined the company about a quarter of an hour after, and was with them when the clock struck four. But what put the matter beyond a doubt was the evidence of two indifferent men, who happened to be earlier abroad than common, and saw him, in broad day light, staggering to his own house, supported by the landlord and his own servant.

THAT he might be subject to vertigoes, was admitted, but the question was, whether his indisposition in the Sunday morning was owing to one of these, or to his last night's debauch? This question was put, I believe unexpectedly, to a woman servant who had lived with him several years, and appeared to be a very willing evidence for her master. She seemed a little startled, and said, "She could not tell whether it was or not." Upon further examination, however, she said enough to convince

vince us that the charge brought against the unfortunate man was just. This, my lord, is the whole of the matter, and we have reported accordingly." "Then," said my lord, "the parish will certainly get rid of him." "I will not promise for that," said the VICAR, "the man has friends, and I do imagine a rebuke, or, at worst, a short suspension from the duties of his office, will atone for his offence."

IT is astonishing, my JULIE, to find men acting so much out of character; setting aside every religious motive to a decent behaviour in the clergy, one should think the opinion of the world would go a great way to restrain them: no man would chuse to be despised, and yet every sober thinking person must despise a clergyman who practically denies every principle which he inculcates upon others; yea, the most arrant profligates must despise him, for even these pay an involuntary regard to virtue, and see the propriety of consistency of character. Who, that has any sense of honour left, would not rather chuse to clean shoes for his bread, than be hired to teach others what he himself did not believe, or would not practise? I feel myself grow warm, and shall therefore conclude in time—What injury, you will say, has the poor parson done to me? I answer in the expressive words of Mr POPE—

"When

What truth or virtue an affront endures,
Th' affront is mine, my friend, and should be
yours."

LETTER CVII.

To the same.

YOU say, "I have forgot my wonted reverence
for the clergy." If I know my own mind, I
am very much disposed to think the best of them,
and therefore not ready to believe every report to
their disadvantage; they may be wronged, I am
persuaded they often are wronged: a very pardon-
able degree of weakness, even the conscientious dis-
charge of their duty, may sometimes expose them to
the discipline of licentious tongues. But the pre-
judice which believes every thing, is not more absurd
than that which will believe nothing. When a
clergyman's conduct is apparently scandalous, I think
every friend of religion should give him up, as its be-
trayer and worst enemy; for, in my opinion, to pali-
ate the crimes of such a one, is in effect taking pains
to prove that virtue and vice are but mere sounds.
I believe it will be generally allowed that the exam-
ple of an indecent clergyman does more harm in a
parish, than the example of twenty laymen equally
corrupted. The laity are under the common ties of
men and Christians, but besides these, the clergy
have

have many superinduced obligations to virtue and piety. An indecent clergyman is an impostor, who has assumed a false character, and perhaps, of all others, the most shocking to a religious mind.

IT is said, I think, of CONSTANTINE the great, that he wished rather to cover an indecent clergyman with his robe than expose his crimes ;” but by the good leave of his imperial majesty, I cannot see how the interests of religion can be served by screening a bad man ; if those who have been solemnly set apart for the service of GOD, and who are supported by the state, for promoting the interests of virtue, continue, in spite of admonition, to hurt the community by their ill example, the sooner they are dismissed from their station in the church, the less mischief they will do ; the more effect will their just punishment have upon the conduct of others. A bishop, in the last century, had a complaint lodged against a young man whom he had patronized, and put into orders—He sent for him, and roundly told him what was laid to his charge. The offence was partly admitted, and partly explained away—many promises of amendment were made. “ I must,” said his lordship, “ partly charge your faults to my own account ; I thought well of you, and therefore preferred you earlier than I now see I ought to have done. You are yet a young man, and I would be still glad to hope the best of you ; I will therefore admit your apologies, and shall endeavour to soften your accusers

fers. But, sir, if any complaints of this kind shall be again made, I will treat you with a severity to which I am not accustomed, and teach you that it was your virtues, not your connexions, which recommended you to my notice!" This spirited rebuke had a happy effect, and the young man was ever after very decent and orderly, nor was his merit unrewarded.

LET me, before I conclude, give you another anecdote of this worthy prelate.—A clergyman in his diocese had contracted such a habit of drinking in private, that he had almost drank away his senses;—frequent complaints were made,—at last he was summoned to attend; he could not deny the charge, and had nothing to plead in arrest of judgment, but an inveterate habit, and a poor family. "Habit," said his lordship, "can never be admitted as a proper apology for vice; as to your family, sir, I pity them, but must not, that they may eat, see the whole people of a parish neglected—I must feel for these also, and have some regard to the honour of religion, which suffers much from men of your character.—You have been often admonished, I was willing once more to hear what you could say for your conduct, and now find that you can no longer be borne with."—The poor man begged with tears to be put upon trial for another year, and promised to be at more pains than ever to break off the habit. "Sir," said the bishop, "I will indulge your request

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upon one condition, and upon none other—it is, that you forthwith hire a curate to do the duties of your office for one year; he shall be of my recommending, and if before the year's end you are not able to bring satisfactory evidence that you are a reformed man, the gentleman shall have the living." The terms were thankfully agreed to, and the poor man, who knew the bishop would keep his word, by little and little so got the better of his ill habit, that in half a year's time he was almost totally recovered from it—Farewel!

L E T T E R CVIII.

To the same.

I HAD a letter yesterday from Bellmont-Hall, and find the widow WADDLE's matters are now come to a crisis. When just upon the point of concluding with the colonel, she received a letter from a gentleman in Ireland, of which the following is said to be a true copy.

“THOUGH I never saw you, my dear lady, I am willing to do you a service—You are to marry my good acquaintance colonel MACGUIRE of this kingdom, which if you do, you must be the stoutest woman in the kingdom of England, principality of Wales, or town of Berwick upon Tweed; for I will be sworn by

by saint PATRICK and all the saints, that the gentleman is already married to half the women in Ireland. I believe my own sister DOROTHY MACDERMONT was the last he married here, and I think he has half a score besides her, now alive in the county of Tipperary. This, you will say, cannot be true; the gentleman must have been hanged long ago for bigamy—The colonel knew the danger of this, and wisely provided against it—A prayer-book, gown, and band, have long made a part of his wardrobe, and every soldier in his company is a chaplain. I kiss your fair hands, madam, and am," &c.

WHEN Mrs WADDLE received this letter, she put it into the colonel's hand, who, with a happy assurance, read it and laughed aloud—"The devil take me," said he, "if there is not a good deal of humour in this!"—"Humour!" said Mrs WADDLE—"Yes, madam, humour, the fellow owed me a grudge, and has nickt his time to be revenged. I have indeed seen his sister, but as to marriage, upon my honour, it is utterly false."—"Be that as it may, sir, I must be excused to demur as to further proceedings—you will therefore pardon me to insist upon your absence from this house, till matters are cleared up to my satisfaction"—The colonel is gone over to cut the poor man's throat, and, it is thought, will scarce have the courage to renew his attack upon the widow. The bachelor was among the first to congratulate the lady upon her

escape, but not before the colonel had been two days gone. My lord's delicacy was so much hurt by the preference shown to the Hibernian, that it is thought he will scarce enter the lists again, and the baronet had most unfortunately made up to a lady of a much inferior fortune. Upon the whole, therefore, there is a high probability that the batchelor will carry the prize—if he should, I wish him joy—farewel.

L E T T E R C I X

To the same.

I HAD a letter to day from miss VILLERS, shall I transcribe a few paragraphs for your amusement?—" You recollect miss ELISON, you always said she was a light-headed girl, and indeed she has shown it; for, about three months ago, she married a very silly fellow, without the knowlege or consent of her relations. What her inducement could be, is altogether beyond my comprehension, for the man has no earthly thing to recommend him, neither money, connexions, nor merit. Poor thing! she is neglected and despised by her relations, and what I think is still worse, must suffer exceedingly from the reflections of her own mind.

MISS

MISS SARTER is the same agreeable girl as ever, but quite a romp;—she can scarce pass a young fellow of her acquaintance in the street, without giving him a rap upon the shoulder; conscious of the best intentions, she is at no pains to preserve appearances. I have often checkt her for this; if outward decorum be not a virtue, it is at least cousin-german to prudence; many may be hurt by our exterior conduct, who can have no opportunities of knowing the real tempers and dispositions of our minds. You cannot have forgot miss ORBY, the vain silly girl from Bristol—I had a letter from an acquaintance at that place lately, by which I learn that she has lost her father about six months ago; who left her a fortune of six thousand pounds. He was a man of low education, and had given his daughter a correspondent one; for excepting the few months she was with us, she was scarce ever allowed to see good company in her life. The man had never been worth above two or three thousand pounds, but some months before his death, got a large sum by the death of a brother in New-York. Miss ORBY is so elevated by the possession of this sum, that she affects, upon all occasions, to be the fine lady, and scarce knows one of her old acquaintance—perhaps some needy fortune-hunter may bring her to her right mind.

MISS SAXBY, in spite of several disappointments, which would have broken a spirit less firm,
still

still supports her character with dignity. Notwithstanding the delicacy with which she was brought up, and the many compliments paid to her beauty, when her father was obliged to retrench his living, she gave up company, strictly attended to the affairs of the family, and even carried on, with success, a branch of business to which she had not been bred. Of such vast consequence are virtue and good sense in the conduct of life. Miss BELFRY, whose early propensity to tatling you must remember, is fallen into utter contempt; every where avoided, become ridiculous even to a proverb. No body was safe in her company, whatever she heard she repeated; and her itch for talking, at last carried her the indecent length of adding circumstances, and even telling down right falsehoods, rather than run out of subjects.

You cannot possibly have forgotten miss STANLEY, the amiable girl from New-York—alas! my lady HARIET, she is now no more!—You know she was happily married a few years ago, to a very worthy young man posselt of a genteel fortune; their union was the result of the most entire affection; never two were more fitted for one another, for each was blest with every amiable quality, every temper and disposition which could insure happiness in the conjugal state.” Thus far, my fair correspondent—

MISS

MISS VILLERS seems not to know how dear miss STANLEY and I were to one another!—she seems not to know that we have kept up a close correspondence. I had a letter from my dear friend a few weeks ago, by which I understood that her hour drew on; and a card from another friend yesterday, advising of her death, a few days after she was brought to bed. I have lost so many friends of late, that my heart is in some degree hardened; the idea of death is become perfectly familiar to me—You have often heard me mention this dear girl, for such, in respect of her youth, such, in respect of our friendship, I must still call her—A sweeter temper, an easier manner, a better heart, never fell to the lot of woman. Peace to her gentle shade!—happiness to her sweet children!—comfort to her distressed connexions!—she lives, and long must live, in the memory of all who knew her. Farewel!

L E T T E R CX.

To the same.

MY lord had another letter yesterday from his nephew, of which I send you a copy. The old man is extremely happy in his correspondence, I think with reason, such first fruits promise a rich crop.

“ I WAS

" I WAS yesterday forenoon to see the Chappel-Royal, which, perhaps, had the roof upon it when your lordship was last in Scotland. Alas! my lord, how shall I describe its present situation! how my own feelings on seeing it!—delicacy forbids the first, the last is impossible. Pillars, and tombs, and walls, a common ruin!—the graves of the dead, even the graves of kings and princes, dishonoured!—overgrown with weeds, and become the receptacle of toads, and bats, and owls!—I asked your friend why the Chappel-Royal of Scotland, where her kings had so long worshipped the God of their fathers, where so many of their bones were entombed, was, to the reproach of humanity, suffered to ly in this state, while the adjacent park was surrounded with a decent stone wall?—" Perhaps," said he, " to shew that it is as natural to neglect kings after their death, as it is to flatter them while alive; in this age few pillars are inscribed to DECENCY. The walls of the park had been in the same state, were it not that the grass pays for repairing them. I think it would be more decent to sell the stones for repairing the highways, and to let the area for a common dunghill; in which case it would be cleaned at least once a year."

WE dined in town with a gentleman for whom your friend has a particular value, I think upon very good grounds. I had just seen him before, and cannot say I did him justice; some mens exterior
bids

bids us hope much, and in that case, a disappointment is doubly felt; in the appearance of others, there is something disgusting to strangers, from which our self-love presently takes the alarm; and yet, upon future acquaintance, the last shall always rise, the first constantly sink in our esteem. He is a man of taste and learning, and several gentlemen of that character dined with us. I will not presume to recapitulate the conversation, let me only observe, that I was much entertained, and I hope, in, some degree, improved by it. There was a precision in their ideas, a force and elegance in their expression, and a propriety and noble freedom in their sentiment and manner, which charmed me. What a blessing is a liberal education! how much greater a liberal mind! how great both united!—

IN our way home, your friend asked me how I liked our landlord?—"Very much, I said, much better than when I saw him first." "So I thought you would," said he, "my friend is not one of your specious out-side people, but tried sterling mettle within. There is a certain peculiarity in his manner and way of thinking, which some take the liberty to blame, who are utter strangers to his real character, and themselves not much chargeable with the guilt of thinking. Whatever, in any degree, grates upon their preconceived opinions hurts their pride; whatever falls not in with their own manner and plan of life, they are sure to con-

denn. My friend is fond of the antients, and has formed his mind upon some of the best models: he cannot therefore approve, nor will he imitate every modern refinement in conversation and manners; real worth in all parties, and in all stations, he respects, and no views, no distinctions can, to him, make up for the want of it. In one word, he is a man of known integrity, great parts, and universal knowledge."

IN the evening we were at a concert, where there was a very brilliant company, and excellent music. The performers, all but a few hired friends, are gentlemen who play for their own amusement; they have commonly an Italian for leading the band; the man they have at present is an excellent performer. They are very fond of the Italian music, and that night some of CORRELLI's pieces were played with great taste and judgment; I think they excel in the *Allegro* parts, perhaps, as being most suited to the briskness of their animal spirits. At the end of each act, they have a song, or a solo, or a Scotch tune is played. One can easily observe the effect of the national music; when a Scotch song is sung, or a Scotch tune play'd, the countenances of the ladies brighten up, the gentlemen are all alive. Indeed I wonder not at this, for your lordship knows that there is something inexpressibly sweet and agreeable in the Scotch tunes, though they have no great compass. Strangers are admitted to the concert by tickets,

tickets, which the directors very obligingly give to any gentleman who asks them.

THE new buildings planned out, and now carrying on in the neighbourhood of this city, begin to give it a very fine appearance; several very elegant houses are already built. The buildings on the north have the most extensive prospect, but are much exposed from their high situation; those on the south, will, I think, be more pleasant, being sheltered from the north and north-east winds by the castle, the city, and the adjacent hills; and having an extensive view of a fine country to the south and west. I cannot think, my lord, but they are building too much here, for as great numbers of the inhabitants have their living by letting houses and lodgings, especially, in session-time, if the buildings are too much increased, the rents must of course fall, perhaps numbers of houses become waste. Were it not for the constant residence of the court of session, I am told Edinburgh would be a desert, as their trade bears no proportion to the number of the people and the expence of their living.

SOME here still regret the union of the two kingdoms, but these are few, and, I imagine, not influenced by the most public spirited motives. If this prejudice be excusable in any, it is in the citizens of Edinburgh, who by the sitting of the Scotch parliament, and the occasional residence of the ministers

of state would have certainly had a great deal of more money spent among them. But your lordship knows that such private and local considerations must never come in competition with the general good of the country, which has unquestionably been very much promoted by this salutary measure. Not a whit the less salutary, that many of those who were concerned in the transaction may have been influenced by selfish and by-ends. Upon this subject, your friend observed, that annulling the Scotch privy council was a full equivalent for all the inconveniencies that had arisen, or were ever like to arise from the union; "A court," added he, "oppressive in the highest degree, and which, from the Restoration till it was abolished, had been much the same in Scotland, that the star chamber had formerly been in England."

A SCHOOL fellow of mine suppt with us to night, who has been here for some time studying physic; he is a sensible pretty behaved young man, and your friend is very fond of him. We had a good deal of conversation about the royal infirmary, which is certainly a very noble institution, and as well conducted as any thing of the kind in Europe. My friend gave an excellent character of the professors in general, but of one gentleman he spoke with a warmth of affection not common. "He is a man," said he, "of the best heart, the best understanding, and the greatest simplicity of manners, that perhaps ever did honour to the practice of
of

of phyfic; to say that he feels for his patients, would be saying nothing, he really feels for all mankind. He looks upon his pupils as his children, and treats them with the most tender, the most paternal affection; it is not more his wish that they may be skilful physicians, than that they may be good men, and good citizens. He communicates instruction in the clearest and most insinuating manner, and with a modesty and humility peculiar to himself; every word, every look, every motion, express the sentiments of his heart. In his prelections he never misses an opportunity of pointing out the wisdom and goodness of the CREATOR, and the influence they should have upon rational agents, the creatures of his power, and the constant objects of his bounty. The music of the gentleman's voice is only exceeded by the benevolence of his heart."

YOUR friend confirmed every word of this, and added, in his laconic way. "Every friend of virtue is his friend, and even the votaries of vice would blush to be thought his enemies."—What do I not owe to your lordship's goodness for teaching me to set a just value upon such characters!—With the most grateful and respectful sentiments, I have the honour to be, &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R CXI.

To the same.

TUESDAY last was the anniversary of my lord ARNOLD's birth-day, when a numerous happy company dined here. The venerable couple were plain, but genteely drest; very cheerful, and said the handsomest things to every body. I think I never witnessed a scene of greater joy and festivity; the servants were all drest in new liveries, and every one seemed happier than another. About eleven o'clock the steward let my lord know that his principal tenants were come to wait on him, when thirty very decent well drest men were ushered into the parlour where we sat. My lord arose, and went forward to meet them, when an old man, in name of the whole, thus addrest him—"We come, my lord, as usual, to rejoice in the return of this happy day—May it return while your lordship can relish life, and enjoy the pleasure of doing good;—We are sensible of the obligations we lie under to your lordship—we know the return you expect, it is, that we live as men and neighbours ought to live. Depend upon it, my lord, while we live happy under your lordship, no man shall be unhappy under us—We pray for every thing happy and prosperous to your noble family; and now, my lord, we

return

return to be happy with our dependants." My lord thanked them in the genteelest terms, and calling for a glass of wine, drank their health, after which he desired the steward to take care of them.

ABOUT one o'clock, ten couple very well drest came into the court, preceded by a band of rural music, to which, having first paid their compliments to my lord, they danced about half an hour. An old gentleman who had come to wait upon my lord, beheld this youthful scene from a window, and seemed extremely pleased. "This, my lord," said he, "recalls to one's memory the happy days we have seen, when our limbs were pliant, and our hearts joyous; when by break of day we could get up to follow the chace, when we could breakfast upon cold roast beef, drink our second bottle after dinner, and dance with the ladies at night—we had our day my lord, let us not envy others theirs." "Rather, my friend," said his lordship, "let us promote the happiness of young people, that we may share in it at second hand; to their vigour and agility we must be indebted for much of the ease and comfort of our old age. These young people, have all been married within the year. And come here to day in consequence of a rule I have long established, that every couple who marry upon my estate may claim a premium of five guineas, provided only that neither the man nor the woman's age exceeds five and twenty. You see, sir, they are not ungrateful."

This

" THIS, my lord, may eventually cost you a round sum annually." " Rarely above fifty guineas, and I know not how I could lay that small matter better out; for besides the pleasure of doing a good natured thing, in this I truly consult my own interest.—Of what value are our lands without people to cultivate them?—The army, the navy, our trade and manufactures, are a perpetual drain; and if some care is not taken to supply the blanks made by these, I imagine in a few years we must put our hands to the plough and spade, to raise our own provisions. It is but little that a private man can do; but even that little has a local effect." " I admit," my lord, " that population is a very important article to the public, but the difficulty of getting bread to a family must be a great check to marriage." " I know it is, and therefore the man who would encourage matrimony, should at the same time do every thing in his power to promote the happiness of the innocent beings who may thereby be brought into existence. If this could not be done but by making them live in luxury and idleness, I acknowledge the thing would be impracticable; but, my friend, decent food and raiment is all that nature requires, and that almost every gentleman's estate might afford to greater numbers than commonly live upon it. By better culture the lands would yield a greater increase; and there is no fact more demonstrable than that by industry and
oeconomy

oeconomy, the lower classes of people might live more comfortably than they do.

MEN of fortune and superior rank in society have it very much in their power to be useful to their dependants and inferiors; their example has great weight, their countenance and common civilities will go a great way to make an industrious poor man happy. How much then are those to blame, who, not considering that all mankind are of one blood, and puffed up with pride and vanity, treat their inferiors with contempt and arrogance; respecting them even less than their horses and dogs! such men may value themselves as much as they please upon their civil distinctions and privileges, but they really are mean inconsiderate beings, who reproach humanity." You have often reason to be sorry that I have so good a memory—it is your comfort that I am lazy—I cannot now conclude this conversation—farewel!

L E T T E R CXII.

To the same.

WHILE I listened with great attention, my lord thus proceeded,—“For my own share I make it a rule to use my tenants well, and none of them dares to oppress his dependants.

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When

When I began the world, my farms were generally too large, I reduced them to a moderate size as fast as possible. The tenants had long been in use to employ only unmarried servants; these were constantly shifting from place to place, troublesome, and never to be satisfied with their wages. But all this notwithstanding, if a sober young man married, the farmer retained him no longer in his service; he was obliged to remove to some town to be employed as a day-labourer, or if he rather chose to live in the country, behoved to take a poor hut from his master, upon very hard terms, and to depend upon occasional jobs for his living. I was at great pains to introduce a reform in this article, and for many years past my tenants have given all reasonable encouragement to young men to marry and settle upon their farms.

I HAD observed them, during the busy seasons, frequently at a loss for day-labourers; obliged to employ them from distant places, and at high wages; I saw them often hindered in their labour by the distance of the necessary artificers, and to remedy this, took into my own management about a hundred acres of a common, which I inclosed and subdivided into small closes; after this spot had been thoroughly improved, I erected a small village upon it, in which there are now about twenty families. Each has a house and a garden, and a few acres of land, some more, some less, upon very moderate

moderate terms, and yet I am fully indemnified for all my expence. I took the neighbouring tenants bound to plough their grounds at a fixed price, and they, in return, are obliged to work to them in harvest, at a settled price, when not employed about their own grounds. When any of the poor people upon my estate happen to have more children than they can conveniently support, when their families are distressed by sickness, or when the father or mother dies, I generally do something for them. No body who has not the experience of it, would believe at how small an expence many poor people may be made happy. My nephew has many good qualities, but none that so much recommends him to me as his humanity; you cannot oblige him more than by showing him how he may serve a poor man."

"WELL, my lord, I have in many instances profited by your example, and though I cannot accuse myself of inhumanity to my tenants, I do exceedingly regret that for many years I thought them the only people upon my estate with whom I was concerned: I thought, as I am afraid a great many still do, that if they paid their rents, they might manage their dependants as they pleased; but, my lord, I am now of another opinion, and think, that the natural influence which a gentleman has over his tenants, should be turned to the advantage of every human being that lives upon his

estate: while we use them well, we have an unquestionable title to insist upon good usage to the poor men who live under them. My eyes were opened by the unfeeling severity of a tenant who a few years ago renewed his lease—he had long possessed a large farm, at a very moderate rent, part of which he sublet to others. My steward advanced his rent thirty pounds, and if I had chosen to part with the tenant, the farm could have been let to another for more money. I understood soon after that four poor men were turned off the farm, and their lands let to others, at such an advanced rent, that not one shilling of the thirty pounds advance affected the far greater part of the lands in the tenant's own possession—I marked him down in my pocket-book, and took effectual measures to prevent others from behaving in the same cruel manner for the future.” I found myself very much interested in this benevolent conversation, and imagine you will be as much entertained with the repetition of it, as if I had obliged you with a minute detail of all the fine things said by the gentlemen and ladies at dinner, and thrown in an account of the dishes at table, the toasts drank, and so forth——Suffice it to say, that we were all very happy—farewel!

L E T.

LETTER CXL

To the same.

YESTERDAY being a very fine day, my lord ARNOLD and I had a delightful morning walk; the sun had absorbed the early dews, the birds sung melodiously in every hedge, the happy labourers were all at work, and nature smiled around. We walked to an eminence about a quarter of a mile distant, which overlooks the house and gardens, and from which all parts of the policy, and most of the adjacent country may be seen. On the summit of the little mount, my lord has planted a great variety of trees and flowering shrubs, with openings left in all directions, and in the center there is a small circular building of two stories; to the first you enter from the ground, to the second by an outer scroll stair of cut stone, with a very neat iron rail. As the country is highly improved, it affords a charming prospect, especially at this season of the year: corn and grass fields interspersed; trees and hedges in full bloom; the distant smoke of villages and farm houses; and the view of several large plantations and gentlemen's seats. The whole much heightened by the serpentine run of a fine river, which the eye can trace for several miles.

THE

THE first story of this little building is furnished with a great variety of natural curiosities from the fossil and vegetable kingdoms; with books and drawings, in which many of them are described, and represented, some in colours, and others in black and white. In the second story there is an Orrery, and a pair of globes two feet diameter, with a fine atlas, and separate maps and drawings of a vast variety of scenes and countries. There is also a reflecting telescope, fixed upon a table; and one of HOOK's best microscopes, with a set of fine objects adjusted to it. In a line round the walls, the following figures are painted in water colours upon the stucco,

1. STRABO, with a chart in his hand.
2. ARCHIMEDES holding a pair of compasses.
3. GALILEO viewing a fixed star through a reflecting telescope.
4. LORD BACON, stedfastly regarding a bright opening in a cloud.
5. SIR ISAAC NEWTON with a prism in his hand.
6. DOCTOR HERVEY, examining the blood vessels with an eye-glass.
7. MR BOYLE, with his hand upon an air pump.
8. MR LOCK, with a sponge in his right hand, clearing the dust and cob-webs off a mirror which lies before him.

9. Mr ADDISON, with the 120th Spectator in his hand.

10. LINEUS, dissecting a plant.

11. DOCTOR MUNRO, with a human skeleton on a table before him.

12. MR RAY, contemplating a bee-hive.

OVER the chimney is a circular painting, representing the creation, with our first parents, and a great variety of birds and beasts around them; ADAM, with his hand upon a lion's head, and EVE, with a sheep and a fox sporting by her. I was charmed with an instance of my lord's reverence for the SUPREME BEING; he has not suffered the CREATOR to be represented under any bodily figure, but an excessive light, towards the top, has, I think, a much happier effect upon the spectator's mind. In a scroll round this piece, are the following words in letters of gold, "Wonderful are thy works, O LORD! in great wisdom hast thou made them all! the earth is full of thy riches!"—I had been in this delightful place before, and have many times thought of giving you some account of it; but my utter inability of doing it justice, hath hitherto restrained me. I begged my lord to oblige me with a short account of the country, and the many fine seats in view, which at that time he thus genteely declined "No, my lady HARIET, I wont indulge you in that—we must manage our pleasures better. This shall be the amusement of another morning.

ing. By the time we get home the bell will ring for morning prayers. I care not how soon, as I begin to find an appetite for my breakfast." Fare-
 -wel.

L E T T E R CXIV.

To the same.

I PUT my lord in mind of his obliging promise, and this day, after breakfast, we walked to the top of the little mount, from which his lordship pointed out to me, many improvements which had been made, in the course of the last forty years. "Observe yonder house," said he, "with the two turrets in front; the gentleman who possess that estate, when I began the world, was an indolent thoughtless man, who let his affairs go to wreck. By indulging a strong inclination for company, and the usual diversions of the country, he was obliged to trust every thing to servants, who have generally but one great object in view, that of promoting their own interest.

His tenants were suffered to fall in arrear, which commonly makes men careless; and a large farm in his own management turned out to no account. He saw the errors of his conduct, but saw them too late; he had not resolution left to correct them.

From

From time to time he mortgaged great part of his lands, not considering that every acre a man sells or mortgages, is just so much taken from his independance and influence. His successor is a man of a very different turn; active, sensible, and fond of improvements. Under his management, things have daily mended: he sees every thing with his own eyes, and, by the gentlest methods, has recovered most of the arrear due on the estate at his entry. It is almost inconceivable what the attention of one man may accomplish in a few years. Having resolved to live retired till his affairs should assume a better appearance, he married a woman of a sober education, who chearfully conformed to his way of life; and as she brought him a moderate fortune, by oeconomy and prudent management, he has redeemed most of the mortgages his father had granted. By his own example, and suitable encouragements to the industrious, he taught his tenants to improve their lands, and has increased his rent roll, without doing a hard thing to any body.

Do you observe a large house on the south side the river, with a clump of planting to the east?—the proprietor has an overgrown fortune, to which he is every year adding; it is supposed that, though but a young man, he has already in his person the property of thirty or forty estates in this county; and he entails almost every one he buys. Some

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gentlemen

gentlemen see this matter in a serious and alarming point of view, and from the man's turn of mind, which is altogether saving, are apprehensive that, in time, his family may acquire a very dangerous influence in the county. I know not if, in all his wide extended possessions, a single pound has ever been laid out in improvements; an advance of the rent is all that he troubles his head about. An unworthy ambition! to be lord paramount of a long roll of beggars, barren mountains, and a vast extent of poor neglected fields.—When, for the sins of the proprietor, an estate falls into the hands of such a one, every good man, every well-wisher to society regrets it. With how much justice and propriety does Mr POPE ridicule the folly of attempting to make the property of lands perpetual?—

“ The Laws of God, as well as of the land,
 Abhor a Perpetuity should stand;
 Estates have wings, and hang in Fortune's pow'r
 Loose on the point of ev'ry way'ring hour,
 Ready, by force, or of your own accord,
 By sale, at least by death, to change their lord.
 Man? and for ever? wretch! what would'st thou
 have?
 Heir urges heir, like wave impelling wave,
 All vast possessions (just the same the case
 Whether you call them Villa, Park, or Chase)
 Alas, my BATHURST! what will they avail?
 Join Cotswood hill to Saperton's fair dale,

Let

But rising Granaries and Temples here,
 There mingled farms and pyramids appear,
 Blank towns to towns with avenues of oak,
 Enclose whole downs in walls, 'tis all a joke;
 Inexorable Death shall level all,
 And trees, and stones, and farms, and farmer fall.

A LITTLE to the south-east, you observe a
 House, on all sides surrounded with wood, the pro-
 prietor of that estate has great merit: in spite of
 almost every discouragement, he has done wonders.
 A great deal of his lands ly low, and are over-run
 with sedges and rushes; these have been mostly
 drained and cleared. His upper grounds are a
 thin poor soil, which by proper culture and a judi-
 cious application of manures, have been brought to
 a considerable degree of fertility. Where you see
 these large plantations, nothing grew formerly but
 a poor starved heath; and though you may observe
 most of the adjacent grounds inclosed and subdivid-
 ed, at the gentleman's entry, there were not a
 hundred yards of dyke or ditch on the estate, if you
 except a few patches for orchards and gardens.
 His tenants were a set of poor lazy ignorant people,
 habituated to poverty, with scarce so much as the
 desire of bettering their circumstances. But now,
 by the example and friendly aids of their master,
 they are become as industrious as their neighbours;
 they live well, and are decently lodged.

Do you observe a small house on this side the river, with a large plantation of firs to the north? — The proprietor, a very promising young man, is now abroad upon his travels. Little improvement has been made upon the estate, and I believe I should not have pointed it out to your ladyship, were it not that I can never turn my eyes that way without thinking of the gentleman who lately possessed it, the present proprietor's elder brother; than whom, madam, I never was acquainted with a young man of greater worth. His heart overflowed with benevolence to mankind; it was the joy of his life to make all around him happy! — But what I thought most extraordinary in him, was a deep rooted aversion to fraud, duplicity, and every species of meanness. He could not, without pain be occasionally in company with men of a bad character; nor could he, had his bread depended upon it, have behaved to them with the same easy complaisance, which he always did to others. No man ever had a more exalted notion of the dignity of virtue, and its vast importance to society — He would often say, "It was not enough that a man behaved in character, and paid the just respect to men of worth; if he did not also, upon all proper occasions, express his disapprobation of vice and meanness, however dignified or distinguished." This, some of his friends used to call the extravagance of virtue; and indeed, my lady HARIET, as the times go, there might be some danger of thinning the circle of our acquaintance, were

we uniformly to act upon this principle. We can-
 not, however, but admire the dignity of mind ex-
 prest in the sentiment, it certainly speaks out a no-
 ble regard for virtue. Some prebty their world-
 ly circumstances, soured by disappointments, or in
 resentment of personal injuries, become peevish, and
 think hardly of mankind; but this was by no means
 the case with my worthy friend, he had an easy for-
 tune, an independant mind, and not an enemy upon
 earth; if he was, as Mr POPE expresses it, "to vir-
 tue only and her friends a friend," it was purely
 from the love of virtue. He was sensible, modest,
 and agreeable, without hypocrisy, and without guile.
 I must not omit a circumstance which does great ho-
 nour to his memory—a day or two before his death,
 he called for his brother, "We must part, my dear
 brother," said he, "but we shall meet again—go on,
 as you have begun, in the up-hill path of virtue; be
 humane to your dependants, and never turn away
 your face from a poor man—My fortune, added to
 your own, will enable you to make a decent figure
 in life, it will afford you greater opportunities of
 doing good—I know your own disposition will in-
 cline you to it, and as an inducement, shall only say,
 that I am already overpaid for the little I have been
 able to do. Respect yourself, my dear brother, let
 the friends of virtue be your friends, and you have
 nothing to fear."—I must drop the subject—indeed
 the gentleman was so much my friend, that I cannot
 proceed—Let me but just add, that to the irrepa-
 rable

table loss of society, and the regret of all good men, this amiable youth was cut off by the small pox, I think, in the twenty-second year of his age.

I SHALL but just point to another—You observe a bleak spot, with a few stragling trees upon it—In my opinion, the proprietor, whose house lies at the bottom of yonder hill, should be sent to America to clear other people's lands; since he has neither the sense nor the spirit to improve his own. He is a poor mercenary man, distrustful of all mankind; and has not the courage to lay out a pound in improvements. The rents of his estate are more than he can possibly spend, in the mean way he lives, and it is the sole pleasure of his life to hoard up money and make new purchases. He keeps a large grass farm in his own management, rears numbers of cattle, and attends fairs with them, as assiduously as a common drover. Much good may the man's enjoyments do him!"—

"WHILE your lordship thus obligingly point out the improvements which others have made, you totally overlook your own, which I can see have been very extensive." "I have done a little, madam; indeed I think it is the duty of every gentleman to leave to posterity some marks of his industry and attention. It was a hyperbolical expression of dean SWIFT, "that he who makes a pile of corn or grass to grow where none grew before, is a greater man than

than JULIUS CESAR." "If true greatness, my lord, consists rather in being useful to society than making a shining figure in it, the remark is certainly just. How poor must our enjoyments have been, how rude and uncultivated the arts and sciences, how bleak the face of the country, had all men, like him, to whose estate you last pointed, sat still with their arms across?—Perhaps your lordship, incapable to write your name, had been only distinguished by the number of foxes skins hung up in your great hall, and your capacity to swallow large draughts of October. Drones, such as him your lordship last mentioned, are certainly a dead weight upon society; to become possessors of large territories, they preclude themselves of the pleasure, and their successors of the benefit of improvements. While the man who improves his lands, without oppressing his dependants, merits a great deal of the present age, and has a just title to the gratitude and respect of posterity."—Farewel!

L E T T E R CXV.

To the same.

THE VICAR preached a sermon sometime ago, which I had heard much commended, and wished to see; he had the goodness to indulge my curiosity; but I imagine he had forgotten that on
some

waste leaves, at the end of the manuscript there was the copy of a letter to his son, a very worthy young man, who about three weeks ago entered into holy orders. I was so much pleased with the letter, that I took a copy, though I said not a word of this when I returned the sermon. I think it is characteristic of the writer, and therefore inclose it for your perusal.

“ By your last letter, my dear CHARLES, I find you have finally resolved to enter into holy orders; a resolution which you may believe is very agreeable to me. In several other professions you would have had a higher probability of rising in the world; but in this you will have great opportunities of being useful to society, and by the careful and conscientious discharge of your duty, you may reckon upon the esteem and approbation of all good men. I am very happy to find you so much aware of the importance of the ministerial office, and the difficulties you may occasionally meet with; dangers foreseen, are said to be half prevented. How much need has a man to discipline his own temper, to moderate his desires, and to fortify his mind, who resolves to oppose himself to the passions, the prejudices, the vices, and follies of a whole parish? How much need to study the arts of persuasion; every thing in action, language, sentiment, voice and manner, that may inform the judgment, and captivate the affections of his people?

EDUCATION

Education and knowledge set a man so much above the general run of his hearers, that when not under the restraint of judgement and good sense, they are apt to blow up his pride and vanity; and where this is the unhappy consequence of parts and learning, no good fruits can be expected from them. In that case, every little accident ruffles our temper; habituated to set an overvalue on ourselves, we very naturally come to think too meanly of others. The less we deserve to be respected, the more we desire it, and the more we must feel a disappointment; for the world will never bestow what it sees we unjustly claim. Our only security against these dangers, is to cultivate a humble temper of mind; to check every appearance of pride and vanity, and often and seriously to reflect upon the palpable absurdity of being elated with the knowledge of a few things, while we are conscious of our ignorance of a great many. We may be acquainted with some of our own rank and station, who know less than ourselves; perhaps they enjoyed not the same advantages, or their intellectual powers are weaker; shall we despise them for what was not in their power to prevent? let us rather correct such intemperance of mind, by reflecting that great numbers of mankind as far exceed ourselves in learning, in knowledge, and in virtue, as we do the meanest of our hearers. It may be laid down as a general maxim, that the more real knowledge a man has, the humbler he will be: for the

more he knows, the more he must feel his own ignorance. How astonishing! how exemplary! was the humility of the blessed JESUS, to whom the oeconomy of both worlds was known!

THE office of a clergyman, my dear CHARLES, however much some have been pleased to ridicule it, and however lightly some others may conceive of it, is a very important, a very serious one: there is no medium, we must either do much good, or a great deal of harm. When a clergyman has a just sense of the dignity of his office, a sincere regard for the great doctrines of morality and religion, and a proper apprehension of the love of GOD to mankind, it will be his utmost wish, his supreme ambition, to promote the interests of virtue in the world; to this noble purpose he will cheerfully devote his time and his talents. To instruct the ignorant, to reclaim the vicious, to comfort the distressed, and to conduct the pious and well disposed in the ways of virtue, are pleasures only known to a good mind; pleasures, like to which this world has none to bestow. But if a man enters into holy orders only with a view to a settlement in the world, if the doctrines of religion have little influence on his mind; if he is vain, ignorant, passionate and self-willed; regardless of his character, and indifferent to the happiness of those under his care, how dangerous his example! how uncomfortable his prospects!—he sees the natural consequences of his conduct

conduct—the vicious are hardened, the ignorant and thoughtless plead his example—he knows he is pitied and despised by every good man; he dares not look up to that God whom his life dishonours!—How high a price does he pay for self-indulgence!

THE tempers and dispositions of mankind are so various, and their minds so fluctuating, that it is a matter of great difficulty to address ourselves to them, so as to be useful. If we soothe them in their vices and follies, they are undone; if we rudely attack them, their angry passions are alarmed, and set themselves in array against us. We must therefore bear with the weak, commiserate the thoughtless, and, duly sensible of our own frailties, treat the perverse and obstinate with lenity and humanity. If the gentle methods of persuasion and good example do not reclaim mankind, they will never be reclaimed by severity; for “the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.” It imports us much, my dear CHARLES, to be careful what doctrines we inculcate; the spirit of the gospel is a spirit of peace and good will; of purity and holiness; and so often as a preacher forgets these great and leading views, so often he departs from the great rule of his duty; so far he counteracts the gracious designs of PROVIDENCE.

THE esteem of our people is a very desirable circumstance; much of our usefulness depends up-

on it. But to acquire this we must not, upon any occasion, sink below our character: accessible to all, and, in the duties of our office, equally ready to serve all, we must think with caution who shall be our intimates. Familiarity, with people of low education, has an obvious tendency to hurt us in the esteem of those of superior rank and knowledge, who naturally make an estimate of our tempers and dispositions, from the tempers and dispositions of those with whom we associate; and chuse not to be much connected with one who sets no value upon himself. Besides, by thus lowering ourselves, we hurt even those with whom we converse; for if a man has not more good sense and good breeding, than commonly falls to the share of the lower ranks, too much familiarity with his minister, has a tendency to lessen the necessary respect due to the order." I am wearied, —perhaps so will you be before you have got this length—expect the conclusion in my next—farewel!

L E T T E R CXVI.

To the same.

THE conclusion of the VICAR's letter was in these words,—“ But if a clergyman must be cautious in forming intimacies, much more should he be careful not to intermeddle in matters which do not strictly and properly fall within his own sphere

sphere. In the present state of mankind, differences must often arise, and according to mens different views, connexions, tempers, and sentiments, they will see the same persons and facts in various lights. As in all differences there are commonly mistakes and prejudices on both sides, it is the business of a clergyman to maintain a strict neutrality, and where he cannot serve both parties, to hurt neither. If he imprudently takes a side, he is sure to lose the esteem and affection of one party, and this naturally leads him to go still greater lengths with the other. The consequence of all which is, that when the difference subsides, as all differences do in time, he is scarce less blamed for his opposition to the one party, than for his injudicious aid to the other; by his countenance and advice the matter was enflamed, and the quarrel protracted, and therefore he hurt both parties. Nor is such intermeddling excusable from a pretence, that the matters in question were some how connected with religion, for what human affair is not, or may not be construed, nearly, or more remotely, so to be?

WHEN I consider the tempers of mankind, and the abuse of church discipline in other Christian societies, I think it the peculiar happiness of the inferior clergy of our church that they have little to do with it. Establish it as a rule, that the clergy, either as individuals, or as a collective body, have a right to interfere judicially in all matters where
religion

religion is concerned, and you introduce the most insupportable tyranny that slaves can groan under; they have, and they ought to have a power of excluding from the communion of the church, obstinate and incorrigible offenders, and of punishing disorderly members of their own body; more than this they ought not to desire; more than this, no friend of religion would wish them to have.

WE live in an age when all men talk of religion, though few understand it, and still fewer seem to be under its salutary influences. When with many it seems a higher reproach not to be acquainted with the different opinions which perplex and divide professing Christians, than to commit crimes for which moral Heathens would blush. When a zeal for speculative opinions, and a propensity to doubtful disputations, have nearly eat out the heart of real religion; and when men differ most in those things, in which they should most agree. When the bare attempt to undeceive people of this character, exposes a conscientious clergyman to obloquy and reproach. How common is it to find men making high pretences to religion, expressing great zeal for this or that article of faith, and wrangling and disputing about opinions, whose lives and tempers are diametrically opposite to the spirit and genius of the gospel? Religion needs not the support of such characters, it disclaims all connection with them; for
 “ the LORD loveth the righteous, and his face
 will

will behold the upright; evil shall not dwell with
HIM, nor sinners appear in his sight."

It is the indispensable duty of every good man to check and discountenance this spirit of error and delusion, as the bane of every thing excellent and praise worthy; how much more of every clergyman!—but to the reproach of religion it must be owned, that many of them cherish and countenance it by their example. Narrow and contracted views of religion, the low desire of popularity, and something amiss in their own conduct, may induce men to lay much stress on the externals of religion, and to wish those doctrines to be true which have a tendency to set their minds at rest: a zeal for trifles, and an utter neglect of things of the last importance, are often to be remarked in the same character. One should think that no man who had the least reverence for ALMIGHTY GOD, would dare to mingle his own private views and angry passions with the offices of religion; and yet we know that these have been too too often carried into the pulpit; with us, they cannot get into the prayers of the church, though they often do into the sermon. I knew a clergyman, who in resentment of some real or supposed injuries from his patron, preached half a dozen sermons against the folly and absurdity of paying external respect to any man purely on account of his rank, excepting only the sovereign, and magistrates who acted by his commission

mission—thus the necessary laws of subordination were struck at, to gratify the man's pride and resentment. I knew two others who differed in their religious opinions; they conversed and corresponded, till they were thoroughly enflamed; they preached against one another, till they had nearly emptied both their churches; till their congregations were entirely convinced that neither of them had any regard left for truth and decency. And yet all the while, the pious gentlemen, by their own account of the matter, were only, 'contending for the faith once delivered to the saints.' Such, and so great, is the power of self-deception!

To teach, or discipline mankind, is the great end for which clergymen were appointed; arduous task! how hard to be accomplished!—and yet I am afraid, my dear CHARLES, that young men are not always sufficiently aware of the difficulty; that they are often too confident of their own powers. Habituated to contemplate virtue as amiable in itself, and vice as mean and dishonourable, they think it can be no difficult matter to make their hearers see them in the same light. Full of this pleasing hope, they cheerfully take upon them the cure of souls, they compose, they preach, and have no doubt of success. Their discourses are heard with attention, they are commended by some, they are censured by others, and, upon the whole, have little effect upon the minds of the hearers; they attend the church,

but

but are tempests in their lives. This is discouraging—some enflamed with resentment, compose with more sharpness, and with greater severity attack vice; they frighten some, they disoblige others, but gain few to the love of virtue. This can only be done by the continued force of a good example, and a steady perseverance in preaching the gospel in a temper and spirit resembling the meekness and gentleness of CHRIST. Others, from the inattention of their hearers become careless, and in end, fall in with those vices and foibles which they cannot preach down; a fatal error! which puts an end to their own peace, and involves great numbers in ruin!—I knew a case where two clergymen, of some character, ruined their own peace, set great numbers at variance with one another, and brought the society with which they were connected to infinite trouble and expence, by sisting themselves on different sides, in an affair of no consequence to either of the men, to society, or to religion. It really concerned neither of them, more than it does the public, whether the church bell shall be rung by a man with red hair or with black.

BUT let a clergyman's character be ever so unexceptionable, let him conduct himself with the utmost prudence, he cannot always hope to escape the lash of busy meddlers and impertinent tongues; because a minister is very rarely settled in a parish in which there are not some men who would have

K k k

rather

rather chosen to have had another in his place. Men of querulous and vindictive tempers, who have much pride and little sense, if they once do a clergyman an injury, never miss an opportunity of doing him a greater. To injure the character of an innocent private man, is base and dishonourable; but it is desperately wicked, and a proof of the most consummate depravity of heart, unjustly to attack the character of a clergyman; in the first case, an individual and his family are only hurt, in the last the general interests of virtue and religion are directly struck at. Much remains to be said upon this important subject, when I shall have the pleasure of seeing you, till then, my dear CHARLES, I but add that I am, &c."

THIS letter is very grave, but that in your dictionary does not always mean very dull—I make no other apology, but that you will receive it on Sunday. The young gentleman preached here, for the first time, on Sunday last, and acquitted himself very much to the satisfaction of his audience. In his person, in his voice, in his manner, he much resembles his father; but in nothing more than in the reverence and humility of mind with which he performs the sacred offices. In reading the prayers he seems to feel every sentiment, and pronounces every word distinctly. The whole congregation were uncommonly happy, and when the gentleman came down from the pulpit, the old people got about

about him, and I thought should have devoured him with kindness; one shook him by the hand, another laid hold of his gown, and some cried for joy—In such respect is the good VICAR and his family with all his people. Farewel, my JULIE,—love me, and be happy.

LETTER CXVII.

To the same.

AGAIN, my JULIE, I have the pleasure to transcribe for you a letter from my lord's very promising nephew—for whom, besides yourself, do you think, I would take half this trouble—I recal the word, *trouble*, when a friend can be served, or amused, is an improper epithet.

“ I HAD the honour of your lordship's most obliging letter, full of those tender and paternal sentiments by which you have always distinguished me, I shall only say, my lord, that I sincerely wish to be grateful. Your friend and I dined yesterday with a gentleman in this neighbourhood, who told me he had the honour of seeing your lordship several years ago at Bath. He is one of the gentlest best bred men I have seen; sensible, lively, and agreeable. He has an elegant house, and an easy fortune, which he knows how to enjoy with-

out prodigality or meanness. Do you think, my lord, I could persuade a Cockney to believe the one half of what I have already seen in Scotland? The gentleman lived several years in England, at which time he was only a younger brother; perhaps to this circumstance he owes much of his taste in improvements; his farm and policy are in charming order, though not yet compleated. I think, my lord, if I live to grow old, I shall certainly be a farmer; 'tis a noble amusement to improve the look of the country, to make barren fields produce good crops, and, in the execution of all this, it must be a great pleasure to give bread to many industrious poor people.

How happy was I, when just as we were to sit down to dinner, the worthy professor, whom I had heard so much commended came in!—I was introduced to him, and at first sight, his determined friend. There is such an air of candour, so much modesty and goodness in his face, that the man who can see him without pleasure, must have a bad heart. Your friend got him by the hand, “Doctor!” said he, “I rejoice to see you, with all my heart! where have you been this age?”—His coming in, and coming so unexpectedly, enlivened the countenances of the whole company. As most of the gentlemen present, the Doctor not excepted, were farmers, the conversation turned generally upon that subject. The landlord, I imagine in compliment to me, observed, that agriculture had
made

made an earlier, and much greater progress in England than in Scotland; "But," said he, "we have of late begun to do a little. We had, and, in most places, still have, the prejudices of the common people to struggle with, even their virtue is in one instance against us; inured to poor living, and contented to live upon very plain things, they had scarce the desire of better." "And," said your friend, "we have a still greater obstacle to surmount, our own avarice: if a poor man is industrious, and pays the least regard to the improvement of his farm, he must, in many situations, lay his account with being turned off at the expiration of his lease, or of having his rent doubled or tripled; for a man to take pains in this case, is planting a rod for his own back. Let our lands be raised in a just proportion to the necessary encreased expence in living; but if the rule must be dissipation and extravagance, the mines of Potosi are inadequate to these demands. Where the vile passion for hoarding up money, or the desire of enlarging our territories are the motives to oppression, like the merciless grave, they are ever yawning, it is the only comfort mankind have that such wretches are not immortal. If a gentleman does not look upon his tenants as a part of his family, and treat them with a paternal tenderness, they cannot thrive, they cannot be happy, the country never will be improved. Our tenants are in general, poor and ignorant; it is the duty, it is the interest of their masters to instruct

tract and assist them. Where this has been the case, the face of the country has assumed a very different appearance, the rents are well paid, the tenants appear decent, and live comfortably and agreeable prospects to every good mind!—

WITH how much credit to himself, and advantage to society, did a late noble peer exert his great talents in the improvement of his estate? With what steady perseverance did he combat the prejudices of the common people! how effectually did he triumph over them at last! how great a benefactor do they now esteem him to have been! I need not name him; would to God there were more danger of mistaking who I mean!—Men of middling fortunes have done a little in most corners of the country, but the noble personage whom I have in my eye, is the only one of a large fortune, who has done any thing considerable in this way.”

“ We all know whom you mean,” said the landlord, if it be not this young gentleman, and as he purposes to see Banff and Cullen, it is scarce necessary to tell him that it is the earl of FINDLATER, of whom it is hard to say, whether the public owes most to his memory for his spirited example in the improvement of his own fortune, or for his unwearied attention to promote and improve the manufactures of his country; in both he was exemplary, in both he had great merit, and for both his memo-

must be dear to every good man, while there are any remains of public spirit in Scotland."

"A FRIEND of mine," said the Doctor, "often regrets that there is not a law made to oblige every man of a large fortune to lay out so much annually in improvements. A thousand pounds, judiciously laid out in this way, would, in the course of twenty years, be worth five times the sum to the public, by bettering the lands, increasing the people, and promoting our manufactures. "This," continued he, "is, I think, now as evident as demonstration can make it: the improvements made in the neighbourhood of most large towns in the kingdom, is an ample proof of it. Thirty or forty years ago, it would not have been believed, that our lands, by any management, could have been brought to bear such crops as they do at present. To hope such crops as they had in England, was thought ridiculous; their soil was richer—their climate was better—all the common apologies of ignorance and indolence were pled; while at the very time, our richest manures were neglected; the heart of our lands was eat out by weeds and all kind of trumpery, and every rational method of better culture rejected as fanciful and impracticable.

Did the great landholders stir a foot to redress these grievances? did the common people shew the least inclination to make but trial of better methods?

thods? neither, except in a very few instances. Some gentlemen of liberal profession, who were obliged to reside in towns, and some men of spirit concerned in trade, had the honour to make the first successful attempts; they rented, (or purchased) small spots; they studied the nature of soils and manures, they got proper utensils, and some of them, at a great expence, had servants from England: they were laughed at, even by those who should have known better: they had the resolution to go on, and have now to far got the better of vulgar prejudices, that their example begins to be followed by the common farmers. This, gentlemen, in my opinion, clearly points out a method in which the country in general may be improved, I might perhaps add, the only method in which it can be improved. The common people, in general, have neither spirit nor money for improvements; such of them as have saved a little, are narrow minded, and will not part with it, but in situations where they have an extraordinary profit in view. I think, therefore, every gentleman should have in his own management farms in all corners of his estate; these, as they are brought to a reasonable degree of fertility, should be let at a moderate rent; and, as the tenants leases fall, others gone upon. I will venture to say, that the happy effects of such a plan would soon be apparent. I know it will be said, that in this way gentlemen might be much imposed upon: in what way may they not, if they do not
 avail

avail themselves of their own reason and understanding? There certainly are honest men, and men capable of conducting such improvements."

Here, my lord, your friend observed, that there is a necessity for mutual confidence between landlords and their tenants, where improvements are to be carried on. "When I purchased my small property," said he, "there were upon it some indolent fellows, whom I could have had no credit by serving, who indeed could not have been served; I therefore took the first opportunity to dismiss them. Honest industrious men were the people I wanted, nor did I care a twopence whether they were rich or poor; I was determined to make them rich if they lived with me. I did what my friend the Doctor so judiciously recommends, I took into my own management part of my lands, especially those of least repute; I improved them to a certain degree, and then let them upon moderate terms, upon terms which even those who rented them thought moderate. I encouraged tradesmen and industrious manufacturers to settle with me. I gave them fees of houses and yards, and let to each of them a few acres of land, at a lower rent than I could have had from others. I bid them be good neighbours, be honest and industrious, and always reckon upon me as their friend. They have confidence in me, they apply to me on all emergencies, and when I have not money, I scruple

not to pledge my credit to procure it for an honest man; my people thrive, and, I hope, will in time make others thrive around them. What I have said, gentlemen, has something the appearance of vanity; I own I am vain, I am even proud to find that by a little attention and perseverance, I can be useful to my country; that by laying out a little money, which I might otherwise have employed to worse purposes, I can do something for my successor; no matter to me who that shall be, he must be of the human race, and I embrace them all, with a hearty good-will; we sprung from the same root, and all tend to the same centre."

SHALL I divert your lordship with a little story which your friend told?—He asked the DOCTOR whether he had seen a set of characteristic prints lately advertised? "I have not," said he, "nor do I think they are yet come down." "I have seen them; they are something in the stile of HOGARTH, and very expressive of the passions. It was at a friend's house I saw them, where about half a dozen dined. The landlord put them into a gentleman's hand, who was much pleased to see so many faces whom he knew; he discovered a thousand beauties in the work, and observed that the author must be a man of genius, as nothing could be more strikingly just than the representations he had given of anger, envy, malice, suspicion, &c. "We all know," said he, "where the same passions

ons are strongly marked in real countenances." Thus he went on, turning over the plates, and remarking, till at last he exclaimed, "Damn the fellow! what had he to do with my face?"—"With your face!" said the landlord.—"Yes, sir, with my face—I should certainly know my own resemblance."—The company laughed aloud.

"I WILL presently undeceive you," said the landlord,—"**Step to this side of the room—look at the glass.**"—"Well! I do."—"Do you see any thing in that face ungrateful, covetous, or base?"—"No surely!"—"Now look at the print—don't you see a great deal of pride and meanness in that eye?—don't you see the other eye half shut upon a person that seems to remonstrate?"—"I think I do—it cannot be me. But that mole upon the right temple, that rising on the nose, that scar above the left brow"—"Lord sir! many faces have similar marks, and in the very same places."—"Well! that may be true; but still, what does the man intend by that woman who stands at a little distance crying, with a child in her arms? What does he intend by that distant view of a farm-house in ruins? What by the old man, his hands clasped in one another, and with a mixture of indignation, pity and contempt, stedfastly regarding the principal figure?"—"Nothing, sir, nothing that concerns those who never ruined an innocent woman; who don't oppress their tenants; who don't slight the remon-

frances: of their friends, and abuse their benefactors." "Enough, enough, I am satisfied the man did not intend me—let us mind our glass?" "I DARE say your lordship will be as much entertained with the repetition of this conversation, as you could have been by half a dozen of sheets filled with news and common place observations. How much is it my duty, at all times, to study what is agreeable to you!—I purpose to set out for the north to-morrow, and in the mean time have the honour to be, &c."

LETTER CXVIII.

To the same.

AS I am to leave this agreeable family to-morrow, I was at the VICAR's yesterday afternoon to take leave of good lady ANNE, whom I had often seen since I came last here. I cannot, my JULIE, but admire the force of religion and good sense, which can so thoroughly reconcile one's mind to what, with too much propriety, I may call a state of degradation. My lady is cheerful, happy, and resigned: to converse with her one would be almost tempted to renounce the world. How much happier is her situation than that of many others, who have equally reproached the conjugal state,

state, and yet continue to brave it out in public? I have, with some difficulty, prevailed upon her ladyship to correspond with me under her fictitious name, and have the vanity to think that few would have been thus indulged.

I HAVE nothing new to add of her ladyship, if it be not a little story I had from the Vicar, which does honour to her heart. A very poor man in the parish had lately the misfortune to lose his wife in child-bed; the infant lived, but as the father had four children besides, he was not able to hire a nurse for it.—My lady had no sooner heard of the woman's death, than she caused her landlord engage a nurse for the child, and also sent a milch cow and some other provisions for the distressed family.—Figure to yourself, my dear JULIE, but one half of the happiness which this seasonable relief would bring to the poor man!—How much greater to her who could so freely bestow it!

I HAVE also been to take leave of another lady in this neighbourhood, for whom I have a particular value; she has of late enjoyed but an indifferent state of health; though it is hoped she will get the better of her complaints; if she should not, it must make a great blank in the enjoyments of her friends. She is a woman of an excellent understanding, and happy in a feeling benevolent heart; a genteel oeconomist in the concerns of her family;
and

and justly high in the esteem of her acquaintance: I think no woman living entertains her friends with a better grace, or makes a more respectable figure on an equal fortune. What chiefly recommends her to me, is her noble and generous sentiments of religion, and her warm attachment to her friends: indeed, my JULIE, there can be no solid friendship but between virtuous characters; and virtue is a mere idea, where there is not a real regard for religion; an idea, which floats in the brain, and amuses the imagination, but neither affects the heart nor influences the life.

WHAT advantages have people who see the world, beyond those who constantly reside upon the same spot? How many excellent characters may they fall in with, which they otherways had never heard of? You see how lucky, in that respect, I have been in this neighbourhood. I would fain hope that good people are not so rare as some declaimers would have us believe. If we have the misfortune to be acquainted with some worthless characters, we have also the consolation to reflect that there are vast numbers of worthy ones with whom we are connected; for the friends of virtue, in all places of the globe, I will add throughout the whole extent of God's dominion, are but one great family, under him their head. Let us therefore, my JULIE, with a generous love, and wide expanded hearts, embrace them all; as the children

children of one common parent; as the objects of one common providence; as the heirs of one common inheritance.

My lady ARNOLD made me a genteel present this morning—a fine ebony dressing box, inlaid with mother of pearl, which has an excellent miniature picture of her ladyship, and one of my lord on the inside of the lid.—Teach me moderation, my JULIE, teach me this simple truth, that I cannot be happy in two places at once. This moment I rejoice in the near view of being with my relations, and pressing my dear JULIE to my heart; the next I shall feel, bitterly feel the regret of parting with this venerable, this worthy pair, who so well deserve to be happy, and all their lives have been happy, to the full extent of poetic song. Let me shut up our correspondence with the tender, the delicate, and sweetly pleasing sentiments of the amiable THOMSON:

“ ’Tis not the coarser tie of human laws,
Unnatural oft, and foreign to the mind,
That binds their peace, but harmony itself,
Attuning all their passions into love;
Where friendship full exerts her softest power,
Perfect esteem enlivened by desire
Ineffable, and sympathy of soul;
Thought meeting thought, and will preventing
will,

With

With boundless confidence : for nought but love
Can answer love, and render bliss secure."

AND O indulgent HEAVEN! ever propitious to
the friends of virtue, MAY THEY never feel the
bitter pang of parting!—united in their lives, let
them not in death be divided. Soft be their exit!
and let their marble say,

" Their evening came at last, serene and mild;
When after the long vernal day of life,
Enamour'd more, as more resemblance swell'd
With many a proof of recollected love,
Together down they sunk in social sleep;
Together freed their gentle spirits flew
To scenes where love and bliss immortal reign."

T H E E N D.

E R R A T A.

Page 54, fourth line from the foot, read *manner*. P.
90, for write, r. *writ*. ib. for girles, r. *girls*. P. 147,
for chuse, r. *chose*. P. 151, r. *termagant*. P. 220, at
the end of the two first lines, r. *favour, as*. P. 257,
for bounds, r. *mounds*. P. 336, after restrain, add a
comma. P. 409, for n, r. *in*. P. 448, line 13th, for
gentleman, r. *gentlemen*. Lesser escapes, it is hoped,
the reader will pardon.



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